

## The rebirth of Manchester continues apace ■ Introduction.



Seasons

TIME: 2.5 hours

START: Northern Quarter

FINISH: University Of Manchester

MILES: 2.4 miles

This diverse and sculpture rich walk will take you through the world's first industrial city. Along the way you will see some great art, impressive and such diverse artworks as a pair of cow legs doing the can-can to a giant bottle of Vimto.

You can access this walk via your mobile phone on,  
[www.bbc.co.uk/modernmasters](http://www.bbc.co.uk/modernmasters)

Or text the code ART WALK to 81010, and you'll receive a link to the Modern Masters mobile site. Texts cost between 12 -15p.

Download the audio version at

[www.bbc.co.uk/bbccone/modernmasters/art-walks/birmingham/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbccone/modernmasters/art-walks/birmingham/)

*This is where the art works resided at the time of writing but if you want to double check that a specific art work will be there when you undertake your walk then phone ahead to the Museums and institutions involved. You'll find links on each of the pages.*

### 1. Oak Street



Tib Street Horn



New Broom

Start in Manchester's historic Northern Quarter. Here, on the corner of **Tib Street** and **Church Street**, you will find *Tib Street Horn* (1999) created by Cornish artist David Kemp. Coiled around the ruins of an old Victorian hat factory, this wildly eccentric sculpture is one of the most recognised landmarks in the city and the official gateway to this part of town. Part saxophone, part dragon it is a truly bizarre combination. Kemp is known for his assemblage sculptures, a technique first developed by Picasso who had the revolutionary idea that sculpture can be made from existing objects brought together as a 3-D collage. The concept of collage radically changed the way artists thought about sculpture, opening the doors to new possibilities that simply did not exist before.

Now carry on up **Tib Street**. Virtually everywhere you look in the Northern Quarter there's art. From the vivid mosaics, to contemporary art galleries, to the many street paintings on the shop shutters and walls. If you turn left at **Thomas Street**, there on the corner of **Oak Street** you will find an example of Dali's influence on the art works of this city called *New Broom* (1999) by George Wylie. Displaying familiar objects in unfamiliar settings is an old surrealist trick. Wylie's steel and stone sculpture was commissioned when the Northern Quarter was being regenerated and it is a reference to the 'new broom' which was sweeping through the old Victorian streets.

### 2. Manchester Craft & Design Centre



Manchester Craft and Design Centre



Moolin Rouge

Now make your way up **Oak Street** towards the charming Manchester Craft & Design Centre. Built on the site of the former Victorian Fish & Poultry Market, the building now houses 18 separate studios each showcasing innovative, one-off pieces by local and international artists. There's also a gallery space with an ever-changing array of exhibits. You will find everything here, from clothes and textiles to lighting and ceramics. And it's a chance to buy your own piece of Modern Art at an affordable prices.

As you leave the building, take a brief detour down the alley on the left and you will see *Moolin Rouge* (2004) by Tracey Cartledge. This surreal bovine sculpture sticking out from the wall is part of an ongoing worldwide public art show called Cow Parade. Artist Walter Knapp originally conceived in 1998 in Zurich, Switzerland, and there are now hundreds of cow sculptures all over the world, from Dublin to Peru. It is the sort of large-scale stunt that Dali would have approved of. He did everything from hosting a group of sheep in his hotel bedroom to parading a 15 metre long baguette through the streets of Paris. This cow-leg can-can sculpture follows in his footsteps, introducing humour and a touch of the bizarre to public art.

Return back to **Oak Street** and turn right into **Edge Street**. Turn left into High Street and then right into **Thomas Street**. When you reach the main road, follow it round to the bottom of the hill until you get to **Corporation Street**.

### 3. Urbis Building



Urbis Building

Seasons

On **Corporation Street**, you will find the extraordinary Urbis building, an exhibition centre dedicated to showcasing the art, design, architecture and popular culture of Manchester. It's one of Manchester's most recognised buildings and was designed by Manchester-born architect Ian Simpson and completed in 2002. It is the only totally glazed structure in the city. Its sculptural design and revolutionary 'triple-glazed skin' make it a work of art in itself.

Cubism was the starting point for 21st-century landmarks like this. The greatest architect of the last century was Le Corbusier; his angular and minimalist designs eventually became the norm in our cities. A friend of Picasso's, he was profoundly influenced by Cubism with its flat overlapping planes and forms, and his great aim was to bring simplicity back to buildings. Picasso's influence infuses this futuristic creation.

From here cross the road to **Cathedral Gardens**, home to regular outdoor art-based events as well as several permanent sculptures, all of which have been integrated into the landscape using the theme of 'the seasons'. The highlight here is Stephen Broadbent's beautiful bronze water sculpture with its big cascading leaves, representing autumn. As you follow the water down the length of the gardens you will pass 24 smaller bronze elements showing the changing seasons and ending with summer. This work recalls the simplicity of Matisse's cut outs.

### 4. Peace Garden



Messenger of Peace

Surreal Seating

Now make your way back to **Corporation Street**, here, as you head towards **Albert Square** and **Princess Street**, you will see some intriguingly strange looking benches on either side of the street. They appear to be oversized toys with giant wheels - very surreal!

Turn left at Princess Street and just past the Town Hall, in **Peace Square** on the corner of **Cooper Street**, you will see a sculpture of a little old woman surrounded by doves. This is the Picasso-esque *Messenger Of Peace* (1986) by Barbara Pearson, created to celebrate Manchester's status as the world's first Nuclear Free City. Whilst the dove and the olive branch have long been symbols of peace, Picasso's famously simple and beautiful line drawing has been adopted as the modern image of this.

### 5. Manchester Art Gallery



Manchester Art Gallery

Go back up to **Princess Street** where, on the opposite corner you will find Manchester Art Gallery. Here, in gallery 14, you will find a gorgeous jug designed by Picasso in 1969. Also in this room you will see the sculpture, *Doves*, by the British artist, Barbara Hepworth, who met Picasso and was heavily influenced by his work.

In this and the neighbouring rooms you will be able to see the influence Cubism had on British art in the Thirties. Take a look at the paintings by David Bomberg, CRW Nevinson and Ben Nicholson, whose work is clearly influenced by Picasso. British artist Ceri Richards' 3-D collage *The Variable Costerwoman* (1938) is an interesting cross between Cubism and Surrealism. Keep an eye out for works by German surrealist Max Ernst and British artist Paul Nash, who displayed Surrealist ideas in his work.

Also, worth viewing is the Howard Hodgkin painting, *The Hopes at Home* (1973). Hodgkin has looked to Matisse for inspiration and produces very colourful and emotive works. Find out how Matisse inspired Hodgkin.

Be sure to visit the Gallery of Craft & Design on the second floor. This offers a fantastic array of stunning ceramics, including a plate designed by Picasso in 1956, jewellery, chairs, ornaments, dolls houses, puppets, mugs and textiles. It's an eclectic treasure trove.

## 6. Bridgewater Hall

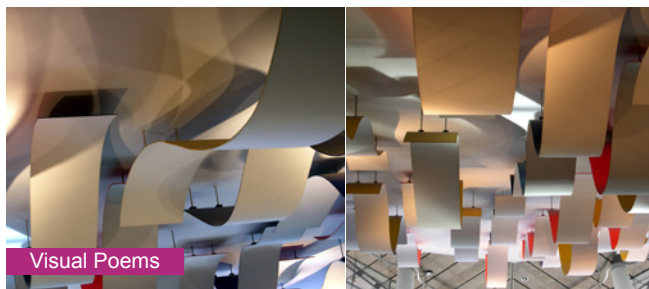


Head down **Lower Mosley Street**, past **St Peter's Square** towards Bridgewater Hall, Manchester's state-of-the-art International Concert Venue and home to the Hallé Orchestra.

Along the way take a look to your right and you will see another example of sharp edged geometric shapes piercing the skyline. Here you will see The Hilton Hotel, the entrance to Manchester Central Station and the sloping roof of an almost triangular apartment block, all of which illustrate the impact Le Corbusier, Cubism and Picasso have had on our modern cities.

Just outside Bridgewater Hall you will also see Kan Yasuda's *Ishinki Touchstone* (1996), a gigantic surrealist pebble on the road-side.

## 7. Bridgewater Hall, Whitworth Street



Go into Bridgewater Hall and look up at the angular roof. Here you will see Deryck Healey's hidden sculpture *Visual Poem* (1996). The South African-born artist made his name in the Sixties as a textile designer, and this 20-metre of steel ribbon references Manchester's textile industry. The textile trade also heavily influenced Matisse's art. He loved the vibrant colours of the textiles that surrounded him as he grew up in the town of Bohain in Picardy, France.

Leave Bridgewater Hall and carry on down **Lower Mosley Street** until you reach the crossing with **Whitworth Street**. Here on your left there now stands a rather unassuming apartment block, but this used to be the location for the world famous Hacienda nightclub, owned by Factory Records.

They established a new space for creative people to work together, just like Andy Warhol did with his factory.

Now follow **Whitworth Street** along to **Oxford Street**.

## 8. Cornerhouse



Where **Whitworth Street** crosses **Oxford Street**, stands The Cornerhouse, one of Manchester's most important arts venues. The patrons of this place are an impressive line up; Danny Boyle, Damien Hirst and Helen Mirren. There are three contemporary art galleries, three cinema screens, a café, a bar and a small bookshop. The galleries are always showing something interesting, demonstrating what's hot in today's contemporary art world.

Now, head up **Oxford Street** and turn right down **Portland Street**. Here, a little way down, you will find the CUBE design centre. This is definitely worth a visit. If only because it's a supporter of the Manchester Modernist Society, who believe that the city should "continue to be a place for poetry and dreaming as well as business and commerce". You will find exhibitions displaying some of the best art, architecture and graphic design around and most of the exhibitions are free.

Keep walking down **Portland Street**, and then turn right into **Princess Street**. Continue down, crossing **Whitworth Street** and then take the small road second on the left.

## 9. Granby Row



This is **Granby Row** and it leads to Manchester University, home to three quite different sculptures all of which owe a debt to our Modern Masters.

First up, on the grass outside the UMIST building is *A Monument To Vimto* (1992) by Kerry Morrison. Carved out of stained oak, this is a memorial to John Joel Nichols who in 1908 mixed his first batch of the famous drink a few doors up at 19 Granby Row. The incorporation of a well-known commercial product in art was pioneered by Andy Warhol whose *Campbell's Soup Cans* and *Brillo Boxes* made legendary artworks out of ordinary household consumables.

A little further along you will see Axel Wolkenhauer's 1989 sculpture *Technology Arch*, which is made from industrial strength steel rope. According to Wolkenhauer, the work "refers to spiral forms in time and space".

Finish your walk on the adjacent path where Paul Frank Lewthwaite's big red sculpture *The Generation Of Possibilities* (1999) looms. It's inspired by the electromagnetic experiments of the Lancashire scientist William Sturgeon.

If you've enjoyed this walk then try one of our other Art Walks around the UK..



## Manchester Map

### Route:

TIME: 2.5 hours

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FINISH: University Of Manchester

MILES: 2.4 miles

### Key:

-  : Walk
-  : Step
-  : Landmark
-  : Underground Station
-  : Train Station

### Steps:

-  Oak Street
-  Manchester Craft & Design Centre
-  Urbis Building
-  Peace Garden
-  Manchester Art Gallery
-  Bridgewater Hall
-  Bridgewater Hall, Whitworth Street
-  Cornerhouse
-  Granby Row