

Museum Trail

LGBTQ

Exhibition guide and map

Welcome to the LGBTQ trail

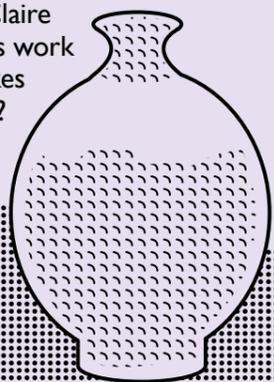
This is a brief guide to some of the pieces on display we've found fascinating. We're sure there are others – you can let us know of LGBTQ stories for other objects in the museum using the contact details overleaf or by downloading the Royal Pavilion & Museums app from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

Scroll down to see map

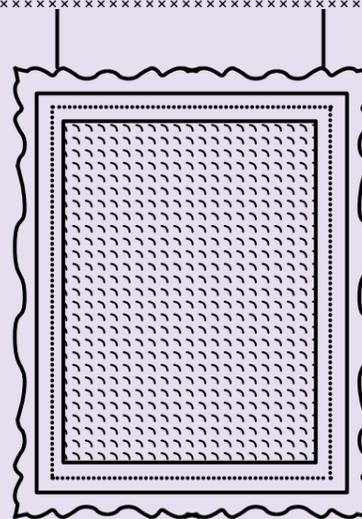


Brighton & Hove is often referred to as the gay capital of the UK and Brighton Museum & Art Gallery displays many objects with an LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) connection. However, their histories are often hidden.

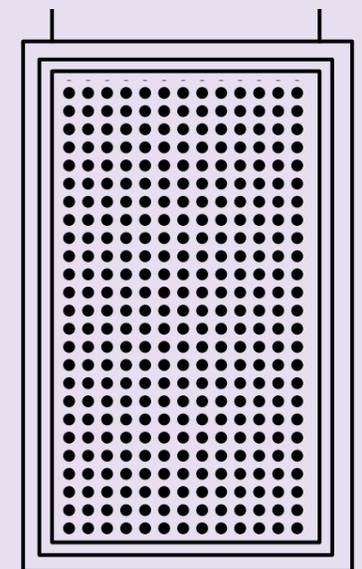
Whose alter ego Claire often appears in his work and frequently makes public appearances?



Which sport was conducted in the nude?



Look out for the brightly coloured plaques, or use the map overleaf to find your way around.



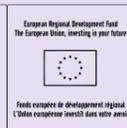
For more information and videos about all the objects featured, scan this QR code.



www.brighton-hove-museums.org.uk
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Brighton Museum & Art Gallery
 Royal Pavilion Gardens
 Brighton BN1 1EE

Curated by Robert White
 and Kelly Boddington, 2013



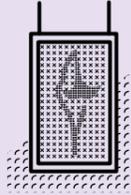
Design by Eighth Day

Follow the trail

Work your way through the museum, this map will guide you to the items on the LGBTQ trail.

1 Gluck, 1895-1978 The Devil's Altar, 1932

Once Hannah Gluckstein gained independence from her wealthy family, she began to dress exclusively in men's clothes and shortened her name to Gluck. In the 1920s she was encouraged by her lover, society florist Constance Spry, to wear fashionable suits designed by Victor Stribel and Elsa Schiaparelli. Gluck became known for her paintings of floral arrangements and her lesbian contemporaries during the 1920s and 1930s. She lived at Steyning, Sussex with her partner Edith Shackleton Heald from 1944 until her death.



2 René Lalique, 1860-1945 Palestre Vase, c1930

The title of this vase refers to palaestra, the wrestling schools built in many Ancient Greek cities at public expense. Wrestling was conducted in the nude and the frieze depicts a group of male athletes striking various poses.



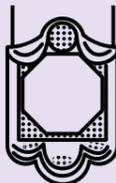
3 Glyn Philpot, 1884-1937 Acrobats Waiting to Rehearse, 1935

Glyn Philpot was homosexual and a practising Christian, who became celebrated for his society portraits in the early 20th century. While serving in World War I he met Vivian Forbes who became his student and companion, sharing a home and studio in London. A silver loving cup, engraved with their names and given to the couple as a gift, can also be seen in the 20th Century Art & Design gallery. A sculpture and more of his paintings are also displayed here.



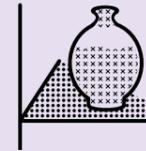
4 Duncan Grant, 1885-1978 Painted panel for the Music Room of the Lefevre Gallery, c1932

Duncan Grant was a key member of the Bloomsbury Group, a set of British artists and intellectuals united by their bohemian attitudes. He had sexual relationships with several other members of the group including fellow artist Vanessa Bell, economist John Maynard Keynes and his cousin Lytton Strachey. In 1916 Duncan and Vanessa moved to Charleston Farmhouse in Sussex with Duncan's new lover, David Garnett. Vanessa and Duncan lived at Charleston for the rest of their lives.



5 Grayson Perry Difficult Background, 2001

Grayson Perry had a difficult childhood with an abusive stepfather, and used art to create imaginary fantasy worlds into which he would escape with his teddy bear Alan Measles. He realised he was a transvestite during his teens. His alter ego Claire often appears in his work and he frequently cross-dresses as Claire to make public appearances, most notably when collecting his Turner Prize in 2003. He lives in London with his wife and daughter.



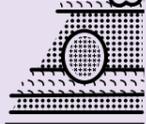
6 King William III (reigned 1689-1702) Delftware dish, c1700

William of Orange was never popular and rumours of his alleged homosexuality were circulated by his opponents, particularly after the death of his wife, Queen Mary, in 1694. His preference for close male associates included two Dutch courtiers to whom he gave English titles and prestigious court roles, Hans Willem Bentinck and Arnold Joost Van Keppel.



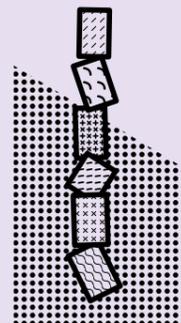
Queen Anne (reigned 1702-1714) Delftware plaque, c1704 (loaned by Cuckfield Museum)

Anne succeeded to the throne on the death of her brother-in-law. When she became queen she rewarded her childhood friend Sarah Churchill with prestigious court offices. Rumours circulated that their relationship was more than platonic as Sarah gradually increased her influence over state affairs. In 1710 they had a bitter argument and never spoke again.



7 LGBTQ Calling card, 1990s

Brighton has been famous for being a party town, a place to escape to, since the early 1800s when George IV commissioned his Royal Pavilion and the town began to develop as a holiday resort. The number of soldiers stationed in Brighton during wartime attracted gay men to Brighton, and by the mid-20th century there was a thriving subculture of pubs, tea dances and even a men's beach. Today Brighton has the highest proportion of same-sex households and civil partnerships in the UK. Listen to local residents discussing LGBTQ life in Brighton in the Images of Brighton gallery.



8 Pride T-shirt, 1997

Following the June 1969 police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City, the city's first Pride march took place in 1970 and the LGBTQ rights movement grew. London was the first UK city to have a Pride event in June 1971, with a large march taking place the following year. The first Pride march in Brighton happened in July 1973 but attracted only a small proportion of the town's gay population. The next Brighton Pride took place in 1991 and has occurred annually ever since, drawing thousands of visitors to the city. The parade along the seafront and through the city centre finishes with a festival at Preston Park. Watch footage from Pride in the Exploring Brighton gallery.



9 Alexander McQueen, 1967-2010 Silk dress, 2001

Alexander McQueen realised he was gay at only six years old and came out to his parents aged 18. In 2000 he married his partner, George Forsythe. Although they split up one year later, they maintained a close friendship afterwards. McQueen won his first British Designer of the Year award in 1996, and was famed for his elaborate and dramatic catwalk shows. He committed suicide in February 2010, just a few days after the death of his mother.

