

Going Round in Circles

This colouring activity is inspired by artist Will Teather's radial artworks. Teather's paintings, based on works in our collection, were due to be exhibited at Strangers' Hall in April 2020. We hope to present the paintings side-by-side with the originals as planned once the museum reopens, but in the meantime we're taking the exhibition online through social media, videos, blogs and more!

These paintings are a reworking of older paintings that are on permanent display at Strangers' Hall. Teather says his fractal reinterpretations "explode the geometry implied within the historical composition around its key energy points. The results of this process can be described as somewhat psychedelic, like a glitched version of the originals, helping viewers to see the museum collections afresh".

With this as our inspiration we have created a series of kaleidoscope colouring sheets using objects in our collections. Print one out, settle down with a nice cup of tea and get creative! You could copy the original colours or let your palette run wild with more modern psychedelic combinations. We'd love you to share your colourful creations with us!

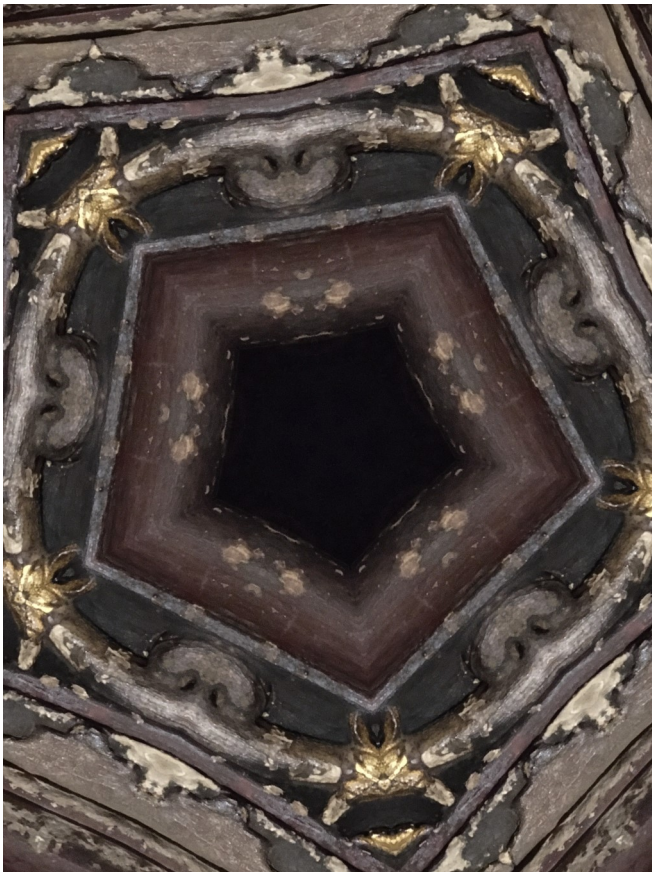
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Mr and Mrs Custance of Norwich and their daughter Frances by William Beechey and Will Teather.



The carved stone fireplace in the Great Chamber is one of the most fascinating features of Strangers' Hall. It is one of three surviving in situ. Each fireplace has been redecorated several times in different schemes of brightly-coloured paint. The pigments needed to produce the paint were expensive. Painted initials of former owners placed on prominent shields suggest that the residents were pretty proud of them!



Similar stone fireplaces are found in the homes of wealthy merchants in nearby Colegate and Elm Hill. This points to the existence of a local workshop in Norwich where such fireplaces were made.

The fireplace lining features ruddled red-painted brickwork. Overlaying this there is a thin skim of mortar with a cut and painted tumbling block design. Patterns like this have been found in homes elsewhere, particularly in south-west England. We think this pattern dates from the time Sir Joseph Paine was in residence in 1659.

We know that there are the traces of four painted schemes on this fireplace, with different colours used for each repainting. The final scheme is visible today and was probably commissioned by Paine. The dragon has a white body and oil gilding gold leaf laid over an oil size or glue was used to decorate it. The overall effect was rich and showy. The same paints were used on this fireplace and on the one in Lady Paine's chamber: we think they were treated as a pair.

Norfolk Museums Service is a partnership between Norfolk County Council and Norfolk's District Councils, funded through council tax, earned income and grants.

