

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Bishop's Palace announces first 'Artist-in-Residence'

Local artist William Balthazar Rose will take up a position at the first ever Artist-in-Residence at The Bishop's Palace at the end of March.

Rose, who lives in Wells and works from art studios in Somerset and Tuscany, was a boarder at Wells Cathedral School in his youth and recounts his time there as one of his happiest memories of childhood. He later headed off to California to continue his studies at the University of California and subsequently to launch his professional career.

Art historian and critic Peter Davies has described Rose's work as 'sumptuous paintings...both distinctive and idiosyncratic, yet art historically eclectic.'

An exhibition of Rose's work will take place in the Conference Room of the Palace from 28th March until 26th June 2015. His subjects range from a series of religious allegorical 'cooks' to luminescent landscapes and metaphysical still lives. His preferred media are oil paint and fresco. All works in the exhibition will be available for purchase.

The Bishop's Palace will be offering visitors the chance to take part in a variety of sessions as part of Rose's post as Artist-in-Residence, including a portraiture workshop, talks about his work and the opportunity to watch the artist at work, all included in the standard admission price.

ENDS

ABOUT THE BISHOP'S PALACE

The Bishop's Palace is the 800 year old home of the Bishops of Bath & Wells. The medieval palace is also home to the wells and ancient springs that give the City of Wells its name, the world famous mute swans that ring a bell alongside the Gatehouse when they want their food, and 14 acres of stunning gardens. Within the gardens are an Arboretum, formal planted gardens, the ruined and romantic Great Hall, waterfalls and well pools, a Community Garden and the new Garden of Reflection.

The Palace buildings open to the public include a medieval undercroft, a striking Long Gallery, hung with portraits of former bishops, exhibition space and the beautiful medieval Chapel.

There is a modern, family and dog friendly café, serving produce from the gardens, drinks, cakes and light meals and a gift shop. The site is accessible for wheelchair users, with new, even pathways in the gardens and a lift in the Palace building.

The Bishop's Palace is managed by The Palace Trust, registered charity number 256356.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location:

The Bishop's Palace & Gardens

Wells

Somerset

BA5 2PD

T: 01749 988111

E: info@bishopspalace.org.uk

W: www.bishopspalace.org.uk

OPENING TIMES

Summer (29 March – 24 Oct): 10am - 6pm

Winter (25 Oct – 28 March): 10am – 4pm

Last admission is 30 minutes before closing.

The Bishop's Palace is closed over Christmas every year.

- All activities and events are included in the price of admission unless stated otherwise and children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Palace Water Walks daily at 11:30am and 2:30pm* (*2:30pm tour only available in summer hours)
- Children's trails are available.

ADMISSION CHARGES

	Gift Aid	Standard
Adult	£7.95	£7.20
Concession (60+, unemployed, disabled, student)	£6.85	£6.20

Children (Under 5 years)	FREE	FREE
Children (5-18 years)	£3.30	£3.00
Family (2 adults and 2 children)	£19.20	£17.40
Essential helpers assisting disabled visitors	FREE	FREE

HOW TO FIND US

The Bishop's Palace & Gardens is situated in the heart of Wells, Somerset and can be easily reached from Bath – 21 miles / Bristol - 21 miles / Glastonbury - 8 miles.

Bus: 29, 126, 161/162, 173, 375, 376, 377 all stop or pass through Wells. Alight at Wells Market Place.

Bike: The Bishop's Palace is situated on Sustrans cycle route 3. Visit www.sustrans.org.uk for further information and maps. Cycle racks available over the drawbridge and in Market Place.

Train: The nearest railway stations are Castle Cary (9 miles from Wells) and also Bristol Temple Meads and Bath Spa (both 21 miles), where you will find bus links to Wells.

Coach: Follow signs to coach dropping off point, continue down one way system to bus station coach park.

Car: The main routes to Wells are the A371 and the A39. The Bishop's Palace is a short walk from all central car parks, use Whiting Way car park (long stay) which is located just off the A39 or Market Place (short stay, 1 hour maximum) is just outside the palace Not available Wednesday or Saturday (market days).

Map: http://www.bishopspalace.org.uk/location_map.php