

## BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY (AREA C)

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Situated on a prominent city centre site opposite the neoclassical Town Hall, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) is easily identified by its clock tower which is sometimes referred to as 'Big Brum'. This elegant Edwardian Renaissance-style building was designed by Henry Richard Yeovil Yardley Thomason (1826-1901), and opened in 1885 by the then by Prince of Wales - the future King Edward VII.

In the top storey over the main entrance is an important sculpture by Francis John Williamson (1833-1920). Known as the Allegory of Fame Rewarding the Arts, it depicts a female figure of Birmingham holding a laurel wreath as if to crown the efforts of artists either side of her.

It has the largest Pre-Raphaelite art collection in the world, which has influenced my own art work, and I have been delighted to be included in several BMAG exhibitions over the years.

These photographs coincide with ongoing restoration while people continue to enjoy BMAG as a point-reference to meet or orientate their journeying. Wider context is provided by views of it from the top of The Library of Birmingham, as well as ground based hoardings for 'where commerce meets culture'.

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