

NEWS RELEASE

TO: NEWS DESK
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEREFORD COLLEGE OF ARTS COLLABORATES WITH HAY FESTIVAL, HOUSE OF ILLUSTRATION AND TOP SPEAKERS TO CELEBRATE THE PENNY BLACK

The first ever postage stamp, The Penny Black, was issued on 6th May 1840. To celebrate this landmark, Hereford College of Arts have joined forces with House of Illustration and Hay Festival to host a programme of exhibitions, workshops and a symposium of talks from acclaimed commissioners, archivists and practitioners.

The College was established in 1851 as a city art school, it is fitting that this auspicious anniversary begins in Hereford. The college has been teaching illustration at undergraduate level for 20 years, and the BA (Hons) Illustration and BA (Hons) Illustration & Animation courses attract students from throughout the UK and abroad, offering them opportunities to try a broad range of approaches to visual communication and animation.

“Studying here at HCA gives students opportunities they just don’t get elsewhere,” says Neil Hadfield, Illustration Course Leader and himself a practicing Illustrator. “As well as the perks of studying at a dedicated arts college, our students get to meet and work with industry legends, work in partnership with institutions such as the BBC and Hay Festival, and work on a wide variety of live briefs. Pushing The Envelope is an exciting project that combines all of these things.”

Upcoming events include:

PUSHING THE ENVELOPE EXHIBITION:

A showcase of work commissioned exclusively from a selected and invited international group of professional illustrators. Each practitioner has been asked to personally respond to this landmark anniversary by decorating and embellishing an envelope. This unique collection of new work will celebrate the art of postal communication and can be seen at Hereford College of Arts College Road Campus from 17th April - 1st May, House of Illustration in London from 6th May - 16th May, and finally at The Hay Festival from 21st May – 31st May 2015.

WORKSHOPS:

Hereford College of Arts will be hosting a series of workshops for schools and colleges, inviting them to come into the College's workshops and create new work.

The College will also be inviting children to decorate envelopes with HCA staff and students during their workshops at The Hay Festival.

SYMPOSIUM:

On Thursday 30th April the College opens its doors to some of the biggest names in illustration to host a series of talks which members of the public are invited to attend (booking for this event is essential). Neil Hadfield will open the event, before welcoming pre-eminent illustrator and author David Gentleman, Designer of many of the UK's most enduring stamp designs.

Also speaking at the symposium will be co-founder of award winning design group Trickett & Webb, designer of postage stamps and biographer of David Gentleman, Brian Webb; Illustrator and creator of Hate Mail, Mr Bingo; and Naomi Games, daughter of legendary Graphic Designer Abram Games. The event will conclude with an exclusive private view of the Pushing the Envelope exhibition.

Pushing the Envelope is kindly supported by Castle House Hotel, Hereford. For more information about the events and artists involved, please visit hca.ac.uk.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

For more information and photo opportunities, please contact Dee Montague (contact details above), or call Kate La Barre on 01432 273359

Hereford College of Arts is the only specialist college in the Midlands dedicated to The Arts. It offers college and university-level courses, ranging from Diplomas and A-Levels to BA (Hons) and Masters Degrees.

For more information about Hereford College of Arts, please visit www.hca.ac.uk.