



Every bear has a story to tell - we want you to share yours

And be part of a very special celebration of teddy bears this Spring

The Ark, in Temple Bar Dublin wants to get to know your teddy bear! From 8 Feb The Ark is celebrating teddy bears and their stories with a stunning exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood (UK) featuring teddy bears from around the world and a programme an exciting programme of bear themed workshops and special events to delight children and adults of all ages.

Do you have a beloved Teddy Bear? Perhaps you have had him for years or he has just joined your family recently. Would he like to be part of a very special this celebration of bears? All you need to do is take a photo of your teddy bear and either email thearkdublin@gmail.com or tweet (@thearkdublin) in the pic with the following details:

Your teddy's name and age

Your name (and if under 16 your own age)

The photo of your teddy will then be printed out and will join others which will grow together to fill the outline of a giant teddy bear on the foyer wall in The Ark.

All teddy bears will be entered into a draw at the end of the programme. The winning bear and their owner will win a year's Family Membership of The Ark as well as a teddy bear themed hamper full of goodies. Deadline for submissions is 31st March

About Teddy Bear Story at The Ark Eustace Street, Temple Bar, D 2.

The Ark is, for the first time, working with the V&A Museum of Childhood to present [their touring exhibition](#) Teddy Bear Story in Ireland from 8 Feb for a limited time only. The V&A is the world's greatest museum of art and design and its Museum of Childhood is home to one of the world's finest collections of children's toys, dolls' houses, games and costumes. Taking as its starting point the V&A's stunning exhibition of teddy bears, The Ark has commissioned bespoke workshops and events which will enhance and compliment the exhibition, giving participants the chance to be more involved and even create their very own teddy bear to take home. This will be the only venue in Ireland which will host Teddy Bear Story in 2014 and tickets (€5 adults and children aged 2+) are now on sale from www.ark.ie 01 670 7788.

In Teddy Bear Story you will meet a very special collection of well-loved furry faces in a gorgeous exhibition that celebrates the success of one of the world's favourite toys. From the original German Steiff bears through to Were Bears and Care Bears, it includes very old bears, some very rare bears and even some very famous bears for all the family to meet.

Irish bears are represented [at The Ark](#) with a collection of Irish made teddy bears on loan from The Dolls Store Hospital & Museum. [The programme](#) also features photographic portraits from photographer Mark Nixon's *Much Loved* book. The portraits include teddy bears belonging to Gerry Ryan, Miriam O'Callaghan, and Rowan Atkinson's teddy from the Mr Bean television series. <http://marknixon.com/muchloved/8/>

As well as meeting these bears you are encouraged to bring their own teddy bear with you [to join in the fun](#). After the exhibition why not take part in a hands on **Workshop** where you can take inspiration from what you have seen to create yourself. Those ages 2+ can chose from a range of specially commissioned workshops in visual arts and music hosted by a number of leading artists. Teddy bears are also encouraged to attend. Full workshop details can be found at www.ark.ie / 01 670 7788

The Ark gratefully acknowledges the support of its principal funder the Arts Council and also its other annual supporters: the Department of Education and Skills, Temple Bar Cultural Trust and Dublin City Council.

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The Ark

V&A

**Museum of
Childhood**