Teddy Bear Story

Every Bear has a story to tell....

A stunning exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood (UK) featuring teddy bears from around the world presented alongside an exciting programme of bear themed workshops and special events to delight children and adults of all ages, specially commissioned by The Ark (IRELAND)

8 Feb – 6 April 2014

at The Ark, Temple Bar, Dublin

Tickets now on sale. Tickets €5
Teddy bears attend free of charge.
The Ark is, for the first time, working with the V&A Museum of Childhood to present 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 with in the exhibition with a collection of Irish made teddy bears on loan from The Dolls Store Hospital & Museum. The exhibition will also feature 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 (teddy-bears get in for free). There will also be an opportunity for you to submit a photo of your own beloved bear to be part of an every growing wall of bear photos in The Ark. Or take your teddy and family on the Bear Hunt to find hidden teddy bears through the building.

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.
Ages 2-3 can enjoy a 45 minute Teddy Bear early years visual arts workshop with artist Orla Kelly who will bring young children on a visual adventure through rivers, swamps, forests and caves to find bears. Or they can take part in a fun musical teddy bear’s picnic in a workshop for tiny musicians based on the much-loved song with musician Shane McGrath.

Families can try their hand at making their own teddy bear in a hands on workshop with Bear Essentials. Join expert Teddy Bear maker Anke Morgenroth from Bear Essentials for a wonderful teddy bear or stuffed animal making workshop. [http://www.bearessentials.ie](http://www.bearessentials.ie). Choose from a selection of bears and other animals, all made from different soft plush fabrics that are partially sewn up already. Then build your bear by stuffing them and sewing them up, customising them with ribbons, material and buttons. Everyone in the family can join in and make their own bear (it is recommended that younger children are assisted by an adult).

Learn some basic sewing and joining skills, in a Soft toy-making workshop (ages 4-6) with Artist Jo May. Create your very own soft toy from the large range of materials available and when finished bring your bear home. Or bring your own pieces of material from objects which have a special significance to you and incorporate them into your new bear in a Memory Bear-making workshop (ages 7+).

In the Illustrate a bear character workshops (Ages 4-6 & Ages 7+) artist Steve McCarthy will help you develop a bear character using a variety of illustration techniques, taking inspiration from the classic bear characters in children’s literature including Winnie the Pooh and Paddington Bear. Once you have created your character, you can write a short story around the character or work on a longer illustrated story.

Or for ages 6 to 106 why not bring along your knitting needles and wool and join in a fun knitting session. In a very relaxed atmosphere, in the company of experienced knitters learn to knit a fabulous woollen bear. Tea, juice and cupcakes will be served at the start of the session. Basic knitting experience is desired, but an expert knitter from Winnie’s Wool Wagon will be available to
give tips and guidance. http://winniethewoolwagon.com (There will be a selection of wool and needles available to buy at The Ark, but please bring along your own if possible)

You will also have a chance to bring along your teddies for their annual check-up. The specialists from The Dolls Hospital will heal your bears that have become a bit torn and battered over the years. Small repair work is free of charge but there will a repair fee if the bear needs a lot of work. Your teddy will then get a certificate of wellness after their check-up.

Find out more about the brown bears who used to roam in the wild in Ireland by joining zoologist Geraldine Breen for Know your Bears, a fun talk on real bears where you will discover the lives of bears - where they live, what they eat and why you shouldn't give them a hug! Geraldine will have a selection of real bear photographs and artefacts to show. For ages 4+.

There will also be a full programme of workshops and events for schools, details of which can be found at www.ark.ie/schools

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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TEDDY BEAR STORY Details:

Teddy Bear Story
8 February – 6 April 2014
Saturdays (10am-5pm) & Sundays (12-5pm)
Midterm break Monday 17 – Friday 21 February (10am-5pm)

Suitable for all the family. Tickets €5 (adults & children aged 2+)

Teddy Bear early years visual arts workshop
Saturdays 15 Feb, 1 & 15 March @ 10am & 11.30am
Duration 45mins Ages 2-3

Tickets €11 / €8 concessions (includes entry to the exhibition for 1 child and 1 adult). 20% discount for Family Members.

Teddy Bear’s Picnic early years music workshops
Tue 18 & Wed 19 Feb, Sat 29 Mar
10am & 11.30am
Duration 45mins Ages 2-3

Tickets €11 / €8 concessions (includes entry to the exhibition for 1 child and 1 adult). 20% discount for Family Members.

Family Teddy Bear making workshops with Bear Essentials
Sat 22 Feb @ 10.00, 12.30, 15.00
Sun 23 Feb @ 12.00 & 14.00
Duration: 90 mins   Families with children aged 4+

Tickets €20 per bear made (includes entry to the exhibition for 1 child and 1 adult). 20% discount for Family Members.

**Soft toy-making workshops**

Thu 20 & Fri 21 Feb, Sat 8 Mar @ 11am   Ages 4-6

Tickets €11 / €8 concessions (includes entry to the exhibition for 1 child and 1 adult). 20% discount for Family Members.

**Memory Bear-making workshops**

Thu 20 Feb & Sat 8 Mar @ 2.30pm
Duration 90 mins   Ages 7+

Tickets €11 / €8 concessions (includes entry to the exhibition for 1 child and 1 adult). 20% discount for Family Members.

**Illustrate a Bear character workshops**

Sat 22 Mar
Ages 4-6 @ 10.30am & Ages 7+ @ 2.30pm

Tickets €11 / €8 concessions (includes entry to the exhibition for 1 child and 1 adult). 20% discount for Family Members.

**Teddy Bear knitting club for all the family**

Saturdays 15 Feb, 1 & 29 March @ 2.30-4.30pm   Ages 6+

**Teddy Bear Hospital with The Dolls Store**

Saturdays 8 Feb & 15 March @ 1-4pm
All the family

Free entry with Exhibition Ticket (The Dolls Store may charge repair fee for certain repair work)

**Know your bears**

Sundays 9 Feb, 9 & 23 March @ 2pm & 4pm
Ages 4+ / 45 mins

Free entry with Exhibition Ticket

![The Ark](image1)
![V&A](image2)
![Museum of Childhood](image3)