

# Visual Story for

# FOOD: Beyond the plate

A lot of what you see at RAMM stays the same, or changes just a little bit at a time. Some rooms are used for exhibitions that are on a for a short-term basis – from three to five months.

As you may know, an exhibition is a display on a particular theme. The exhibition *FOOD: Beyond the plate* is a temporary exhibit from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March and the last day will be the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2025. Entry is allowed from 10am to 4:30pm.

## Arriving

The entrance to the *FOOD: Beyond the plate* exhibition is through Gallery 22 on the first floor of the museum, next to a lift. The doors are automatic, and they open towards you as you get close.

There are signs in the corridor outside the exhibition to direct people to toilets, stairs and lifts. There are leaflets in a holder on the wall to say what's on at the RAMM, and a floorplan showing each level.



Figure 1: The entrance to the exhibition showing the floor plan and leaflets.



Figure 2: The first room of the exhibition, known as Gallery 22.

## What's the exhibition about?

This exhibition encourages visitors to think about questions such as: Do you know where the food on your plate comes from? What is the history of food production in Britain? How does it compare with other parts of the world? These are some of the questions that RAMM's curators asked as they explored the stories behind objects in the museum's collections. They found stories related to hunting, fishing, farming, trade. They explored how important everyday food and feasts are in people's social lives.

Visitors will find objects related to food from all around the world, dating from prehistory to the modern day. They include ancient stone tools for butchering meat, fishhooks, food baskets, pottery containers, a stove for making clotted cream, cups for tea and coffee, botanical drawings, a camel bell, all sorts of dining utensils, an Exeter milk cart and the uniform worn by a butler in the 1700s. The exhibition illustrates the history of food cultivation, from the dawn of agriculture 12,000 years ago in the middle east to the age of the supermarket.

It explores the importance of food in culture, ceremonies and religion, as well as investigating the way food scarcity highlights inequalities in societies. Visitors are encouraged to think about where food will come from in the future, as well as where it comes from now.



Figure 3: Image showing the smaller area in this gallery that looks like a kitchen.



Figure 4: Image showing Gallery 21.

## What to expect

The display includes paintings and objects from RAMM's collection. When you enter Gallery 22, you will see a group of objects in the centre of the room designed so that people can get close to them. Please don't touch them, as they can be damaged by contact. There are more cases on the walls. Some contain stuffed animals and bones. Some artwork on the walls has barriers in front of it, to invite people to look closely but not touch.

The smaller room in this gallery is designed to remind people of a kitchen. There is a table where you can sit, and visitors are invited to write notes about your food memories on a card shaped like a plate. You can attach them to something that looks like a fridge door, using magnets. There is also a TV (with no sound) showing quotes from local people about their own food memories. There is an artwork that looks like jars on the shelf. The artist who made these has asked people not to touch them.

Through the door to Gallery 21 you will see artworks on the walls and showcases with objects. More objects are on open display with barriers around them. Some objects are displayed high up on the walls. There is another TV showing a film (with sound).

A member of staff will be in the galleries, so you can stop them to ask questions if you like.

## Interactives

There are several items in this exhibition that you can touch and interact with. There is an iPad with a map showing fishing vessels and another iPad with a map showing places around Exeter – hubs - where people organise action to share or grow sustainable food, or skills related to food. As mentioned already, there is a TV showing quotes with no sound. There is another TV showing a film about food rationing in World War Two, which has sound and subtitles.

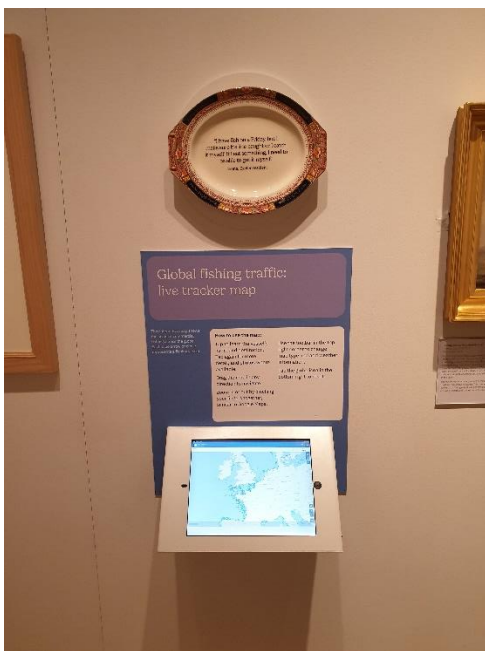


Figure 5: Interactive map of fishing vessels on an iPad.

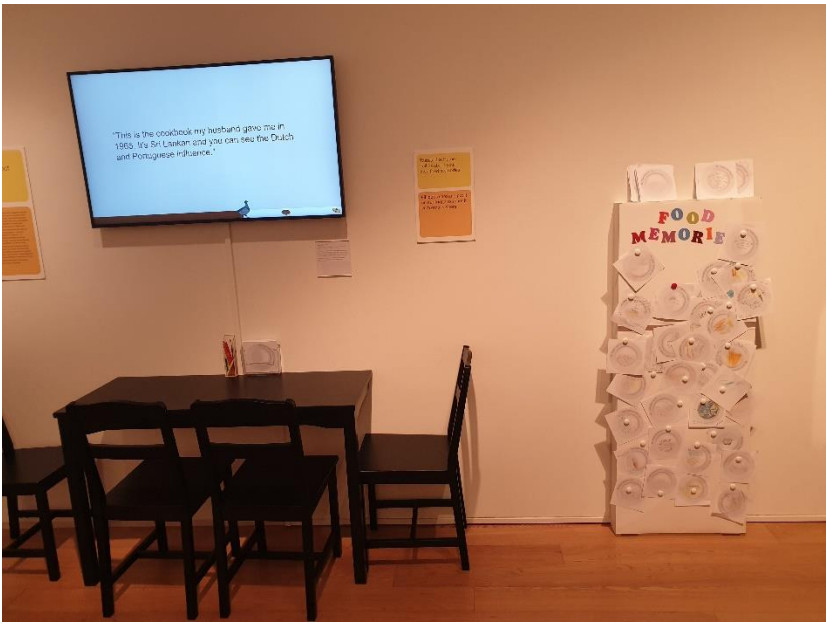


Figure 6: The seated area with table for writing about food memories.

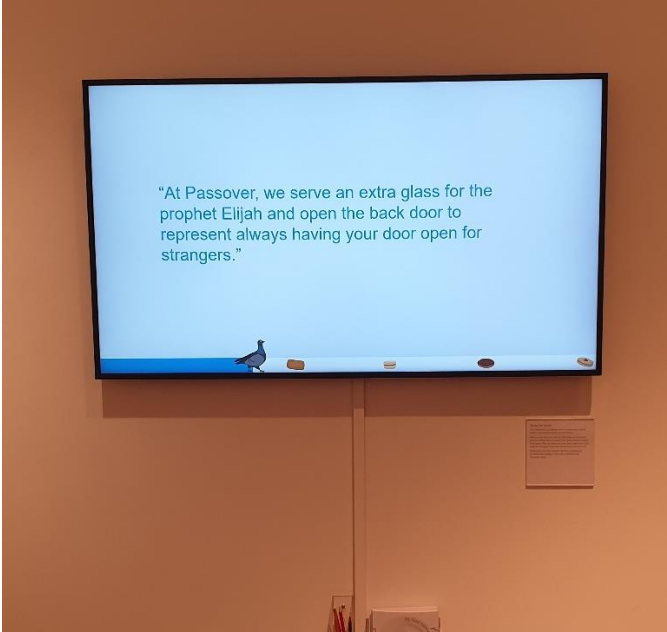


Figure 7: Image of a TV screen with quotes.



Figure 8: Image of a TV screen playing a film about rationing.

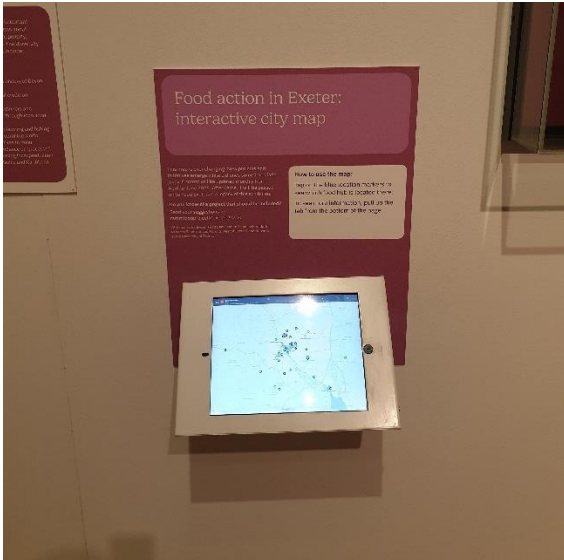


Figure 9: Interactive map of food hubs in Exeter on an iPad.

Throughout the exhibition there are small boxes on the walls that you can open to see if you can identify different food smells. Some of the smells are unpleasant.



Figure 10: Small box that you can open to smell food.

## Lighting

The exhibition has low lighting to protect the artworks.

## Quiet room

If you need to go somewhere quiet for any reason, ask a member of staff. They will take you to a quiet place.

## Ear defenders

Anyone can borrow ear defenders at RAMM. You can ask at the Garden Reception desk. Please give them back when you leave. They are cleaned regularly between visitors.



Figure 11: Museum Assistant offering blue ear defenders.

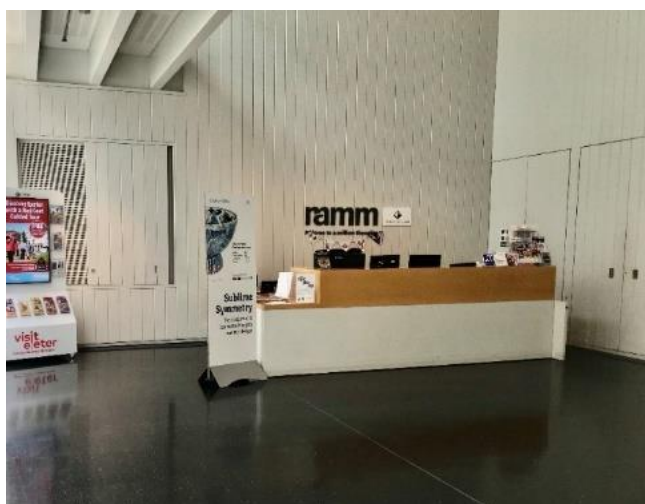


Figure 12: Garden Reception.

## Here to help

Our volunteers and staff will always be present in the exhibition to answer your questions and help. Staff can be identified by the blue, green or purple lanyards they wear. Volunteers wearing a pink lanyard.

## Visual Stories and Getting to RAMM

RAMM has a Visual Story about getting to the museum and what you will find around the building. You can ask someone at Reception for a copy, or you can download it from the website before you come. Visit our [Access Page](#) for more information.