

## THE LIFE IN A LINE

28th February–28th June 2026

A major new exhibition celebrating the raw power of drawing

**Mr Doodle / Damien Hirst / Alberto Giacometti / Glenn Brown / Jake Chapman / Matthew Collings Frank Auerbach / Henri Matisse / Shane McGowan / Pablo Picasso / Ronnie Wood / Andy Warhol**

**Michael Ayrton / George Condo / Zavier Ellis / David Inshaw**

*The Life in a Line* brings together an extraordinary lineup of artists to show just how far a single drawn line can go — from explosive expression to razorsharp precision, from humour to psychological depth. This exhibition transforms the Heath Robinson museum into a dynamic celebration of drawing in all its forms.

### ***A museum transformed***

The experience begins the moment visitors step inside. **Mr Doodle** has turned the entrance walls and windows into a vast handpainted mural — a riot of characters and flowing lines that sets the tone for the exhibition. Inside, he unveils a new series of largescale works featuring machinelike figures drawn in his signature continuous “spaghetti” line, which spills across canvases and onto the museum walls.

These energetic drawings playfully connect with the ingenious contraptions of **Heath Robinson**, and his rarely seen cartoons of the adventures of *Mr Spodnoodle*, shown here for the first time in decades.

### ***Emotion, satire and the unexpected***

The exhibition shifts in tone to the psychological, with a powerful small portrait by **Frank Auerbach** and a rare group of intense ink drawings by the late frontman of *The Pogues*, **Shane McGowan**.

Auerbach is known for capturing the inner life of his sitters with uncompromising force, and the psychologically charged raw biro works of McGowan offer a glimpse into a creative and emotional inner world.

### ***A sweeping history of the drawn line***

The final gallery brings these voices together in a salon style display that charts drawing’s evolution from the late 19th century to today. Visitors will find:

- **Damien Hirst**’s original drawing for the Diamond encrusted skull, *For the Love of God* (2007)
- **Glenn Brown**’s unsettling reworkings of Old Master imagery
- Etchings by **Picasso** and **Matisse**
- **Giacometti**’s fiercely expressive standing figure
- **David Inshaw**’s original study for *The Badminton Match*
- **Andy Warhol** portraits
- Politically charged works by **Jake Chapman, Zavier Ellis** and **Matthew Collings**

This concluding space highlights drawing as an everrestless medium — a place for experimentation, provocation and discovery.

### ***A celebration of drawing’s limitless potential***

*The Life in a Line* demonstrates how a simple mark can carry humour, tension, politics, imagination and emotion. Whether capturing the first spark of an idea or embracing the power of the unfinished, each work expands what drawing can be.