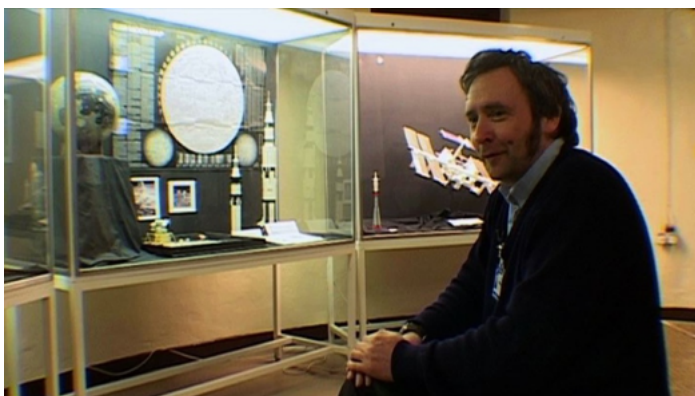


News of this autumn's events at Swedenborg House...



News from Swedenborg House

News of our autumn programme featuring Bridget Smith, Mr Benn, Iain Sinclair, Colin Dickey, Jeremy Millar, Sally Kindberg, Ali Smith and more, in an array of screenings, exhibitions, workshops, talks, book launches and our annual film festival.



Monitoring Space: a special film screening and talk by the artist Bridget Smith

Screening and talk | Monday 18 September | 6.00 pm (doors open from 5.30 pm) | Swedenborg Hall, Swedenborg House, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH | FREE | Refreshments served

[BOOK HERE](#)

Filmed in 2005 at the Mills Observatory in Dundee, *Monitoring Space* focuses on observatory employee and self-taught astronomer Robert Law as he explains his interest in space. The film intersperses shots of displays of the



An Evening with Mr Benn and David McKee

Screening and Q&A | Thursday 14 September | 6.00 to 8.45 pm | Swedenborg Hall, Swedenborg House, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH | FREE | Refreshments served

[BOOK HERE](#)

Q&A with David McKee followed by a screening of all 13 *Mr Benn* films. Organized in association with the Illustration Cupboard Gallery, in St James London.

Swedenborg House has often been compared to the magical realm of the fancy-dress shop visited by Mr Benn, and

observatory, NASA footage of rocket launches, CCTV of the car park and interviews with Robert. The film is 13 minutes and will be followed by a talk by Bridget on her work and also her involvement in the artist residency at Swedenborg House. Introducing the evening, the Society's Museum Director Stephen McNeilly will also speak briefly about the criteria for applying for the Swedenborg House artist residency.

Bridget Smith is an artist who works predominantly with photography and video. She is represented by Frith Street Gallery, London. Recent exhibitions include *Now It Is Permitted: 24 Wayside Pulpits* (co-curated with Stephen McNeilly), Bloomsbury Festival / Swedenborg Hall, 2016; *The Eye Needs A Horizon*, Frith Street Gallery, 2016; and *If You Want To Talk About Light You Have To Talk About Waves*, Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea, 2015. She has been awarded the Beecroft Public Art Commission, part of the new physics building for the University of Oxford designed by architects Hawkins/Brown.



**ad caput capitis:
the lost skulls of
Swedenborg | Iain
Sinclair | Jeremy
Millar | Colin**

similarities might also be placed with Swedenborg himself. A respectable man is transported into worlds beyond his own, a miraculous but concrete transformation, giving expression to the multiple possibilities that lie within the real. Both Swedenborg and *Mr Benn* have since become a great source of inspiration for artists and writers.

This year *Mr Benn* turns 50, and to mark the event, the Swedenborg Society has organized a Q&A with its creator David McKee, followed by a screening of all 13 episodes of *Mr Benn*. The Q&A will take place in the Society's grade II listed Hall, and is also organized in association with the [Illustration Cupboard Gallery](#) in St James, where an exhibition of drawings by David McKee is being shown from Saturday 16 September to Saturday 16 October.

David McKee is a world renowned illustrator and author of the much loved children's books and animations, *Elmer the Patchwork Elephant*; *Not Now, Bernard*; *King Rollo* and *Mr Benn*. Born in Devon, he studied painting at Plymouth College of Art and went on to draw regularly for *Punch*, *Reader's Digest*, and *The Times Educational Supplement*, amongst others.

Dickey

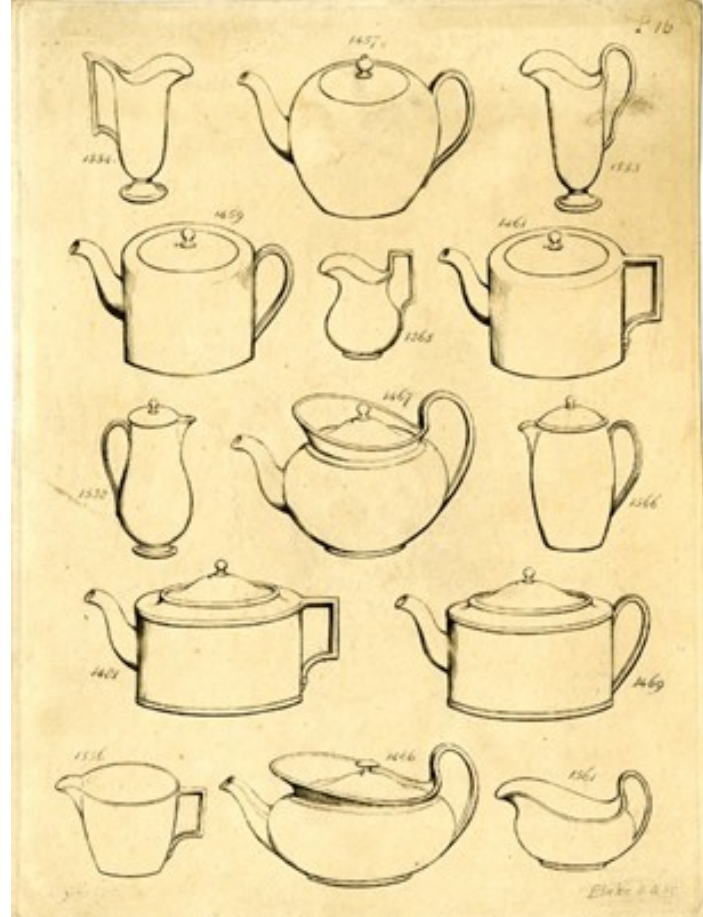
Exhibition of items from the Swedenborg Archive and talks by Iain Sinclair and Colin Dickey

Exhibition runs 18-21 October 2017, 9.30 am-5.00 pm daily | talks, Thursday 19 October 2017 6.00 pm | additional artwork by Jeremy Millar | curated by Stephen McNeilly | Swedenborg House, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH | FREE | organized in conjunction with the Bloomsbury Festival

[BOOK HERE](#) for tickets for Iain Sinclair and Colin Dickey talks 19 October 6.00 pm

Swedenborg's skull has long been an object of mystery, intrigue and misappropriation. Stolen twice from his coffin in London, it was later replaced with a 'ringer'. This in turn was only discovered when the real skull resurfaced in Swansea during the 1950s. It was later put up for auction at Sothebys, and over the years both skulls have been the subject of intense literary focus, giving rise to numerous poems, essays, books, replicas and eulogies.

Organized in conjunction with the Bloomsbury Festival *ad caput capitis: the lost skulls of Swedenborg* offers an opportunity to explore rare and previously unseen items from the Swedenborg Archive that bear witness to this uncommon story. There will also be new works by the artist Jeremy Millar. To accompany the exhibition, London writer Iain Sinclair and author Colin Dickey will each speak of their own work, both literary and academic, in connection to Swedenborg and the strange history of



The Humble Servant: Ceramic art inspired by William Blake and Swedenborg | Diane Eagles

18 October-30 November 2017 | Mon-Fri 9.30 am - 5.00 pm daily
| Swedenborg House Bookshop, 20-21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2TH | Free entry

Open evening Thursday 19 October 2017 | 6.00-9.00 pm | refreshments served

[BOOK TICKETS FOR OPEN EVENING HERE](#)

The Humble Servant is an exhibition of 4 hand-built ceramic pieces inspired by the engravings of William Blake for a pattern book of Josiah Wedgwood's queensware tableware in 1817. The ceramics were commissioned but never made. Adorned with quotations from Swedenborg's writings, and echoing the style of Blake's hand-coloured plates from his Lambeth poems, the ceramics replicate creamware of the period, with

his mortal remains.

IAIN SINCLAIR is a writer, poet and filmmaker known as a chronicler and critic of ever-changing contemporary London. His works include *Downriver*; *London Orbital*; [Blake's London](#); [Swimming to Heaven](#); and *The Last London: True Fictions from an Unreal City*.

COLIN DICKEY is a US writer, speaker and academic who contributes regularly to *LA Review of Books* and *Lapham's Quarterly*. His works include *Cranioklepty: Grave Robbing and the Search for Genius*; *Afterlives of the Saints: Stories from the Ends of Faith*; and *Ghostland: An American History in Haunted Places*.

JEREMY MILLAR is an artist, writer, curator and senior tutor at the Royal College of Art, London. His recent solo exhibitions include *M/W*, Muzeum Stzuki, Lodz; *XDO XOL*, Whitstable Biennale (both 2014); and *The Oblate*, Southampton City Art Gallery (2013).

STEPHEN MCNEILLY is Museum Director at the Swedenborg Society, series editor of the Swedenborg Archive series and the Journal of the Swedenborg Society. For the Society he has curated numerous exhibitions including [Now It is Permitted: 24 Wayside Pulpits](#), *Swedenborg House: Fourteen interventions* and *D T Suzuki: manuscripts and letters*.

hand-applied, coloured lead glaze and transfer printing.

Diane Eagles is a London-based ceramic artist. Diane has exhibited work at The Wellcome Collection, Kingston Guildhall & Morley College, Draper Hall, Dulwich Artists Open House, Morley Gallery, Waterloo, and the Contemporary Crafts & Design Fair, Chelsea. Her work has also featured on the cover of *The International Journal of Art Psychotherapy*. She is also a founding member of the ceramic artists' collective, The Associated Clay Workers Union (ACWU).

Discover the hidden treasures of Swedenborg House

philosopher
author
inventor
scientist
astronomer

Who was Swedenborg?
Emanuel Swedenborg was born in Sweden in 1688. Full of curiosity about the world, he went to Uppsala University when he was only eleven years old. He wanted to find out about EVERYTHING!

Discover the hidden treasures of Swedenborg House | Sally Kindberg

Children's drawing workshops |
Saturday 28 October | 2.00 - 4.00 pm |
Free refreshments | Swedenborg
House, 20/21 Bloomsbury Way,
London WC1A 2TH | FREE | For



Swedenborg Film Festival with Ali Smith

2, 9, 16, 18 November 2017

During November the Swedenborg Film Festival will present a series of iconic but rarely shown films (both features and shorts), selected by the writer Ali Smith, this year's guest judge. The series will conclude with the screening of the Festival's competition shortlist and announcement of the winner.

Details of how to book to be announced soon.

Ali Smith is the author of *Free Love and Other Stories*; *Like*; *Other Stories and Other Stories*; *Hotel World*; *The Whole Story and Other Stories*; *The Accidental*; *Girl Meets Boy*; *The First Person and Other Stories*; *There but for the*; *Artful*; *How to be both*; and *Public Library and Other Stories*. *Hotel World* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the Orange Prize and *The Accidental* was shortlisted for the Man Booker and the Orange Prize. *How to be both* won the Baileys Prize, the Goldsmiths Prize and the Costa Novel

children aged 6 to 10 | Children to be accompanied by a parent or carer

Places are limited--1 ticket is for 1 child (+parent /carer)

[BOOK HERE](#)

From October, we are pleased to announce the first of an exciting new series of events at Swedenborg House. The celebrated author and artist Sally Kindberg will be leading drawing workshops for children aged between 6-10 on the secrets of Swedenborg and Swedenborg House. Accompanied by artist and teacher Kylie McManus, Sally will lead the children through a unique exploration of our rare collection of artefacts and treasures, including strange mechanical inventions, powdered wigs, duck feather pens and angels.

Sally Kindberg is the author and illustrator of the popular children's book series *Draw It!* and *The Comic Strip History of Space*, both published by Bloomsbury. Sally's work has appeared in numerous children's books, in comic strips for CBBC and in *The Guardian*. She has also delivered creative workshops at Edinburgh Festival, the Wellcome Collection and in places as diverse as Beijing and the Outer Hebrides. Sally is a City of London guide, the curator and founder of the Museum of Dust and is currently working on a graphic story called *Sputnik*.

Award and was shortlisted for the Man Booker and the Folio Prize. Her latest novel is *Autumn* (2016), the first in a four-part series.

The SFF is curated by **Gareth Evans**, writer, presenter, producer (*Patience: After Sebald; By Our Selves* and *Unseen*) and Film Curator at the Whitechapel Gallery, London; and **Nora Foster**, formerly Assistant Curator, the Swedenborg Society and now Communications Manager, Frieze.



More for your diaries!

31 Aug, 28 Sep, 26 Oct 2017 (last Thursday every month 6.00-8.00 pm)
Arcana Caelestia reading group

[BOOK HERE](#)

November 2017 (date tbc)

Book launch of the next title in the Swedenborg Archive series, *An Evening of Dreams*, by Homero Aridjis, Eva Hoffman, Darian Leader, Tom McCarthy and Selina Mills; with an introduction by Chloe Aridjis.

Saturday 20 January 2018

Swedenborg Birthday Lecture: David Bodanis on Isaac Newton.

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