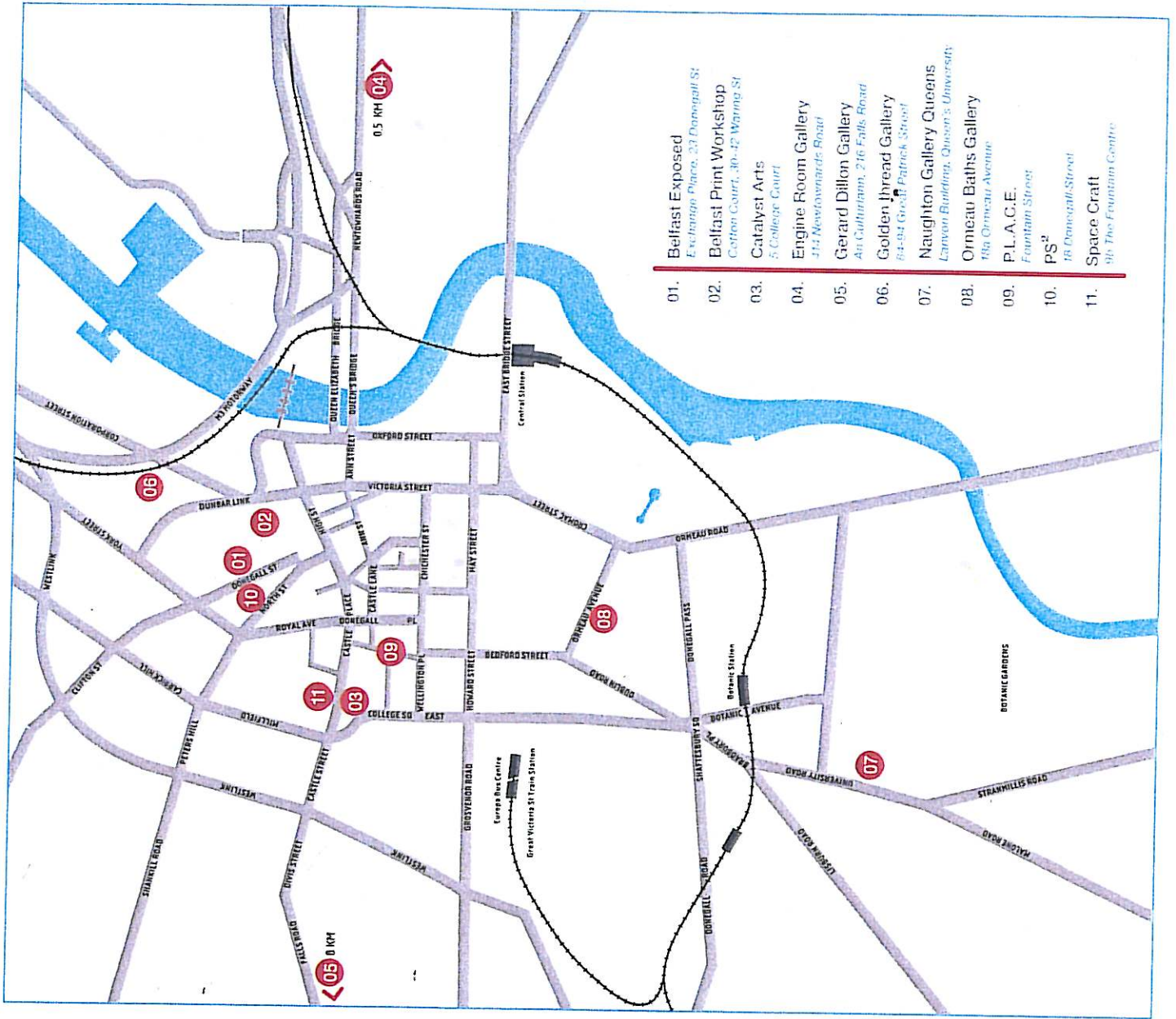


late night art

Belfast galleries
open until 9pm
on the first of
every month

belfastgalleries.com

map



BCCM

41

Late Night Opening

CULTURE NORTHERN

IRELAND and Belfast City Council have launch new website which advertises art galleries in the city. BelfastGalleries.com will point art fans in the direction of galleries in the city which now open at night.

It is an initiative organised by Belfast City Council in partnership with CultureNorthernIreland and will involve venues remaining open until 9pm on the first Thursday of every month.

Guided tours and artists' talks as well as music and wine will be included in the free-of-charge promotions aiming to encourage visitors and locals to explore Belfast's rich and diverse cultural life.

David Lewis, Director of CultureNorthernIreland said, "Whether you're a tourist or living closer to home, Belfastgalleries.com will give you all the information you need".

He added: "The website includes full exhibition listings for public and private galleries, the latest news from the arts world, an interactive map, online exhibitions with artist commentaries, and a monthly e-newsletter".

Councillor Michael Browne, Chairman of Belfast City Council's Development committee, said, "Belfast has undergone a dramatic metamorphosis in recent years with the Council working to develop the city as a dynamic and culturally-thriving European short-break and conference destination."

BCCM

51

Late night opening for Belfast galleries

BELFAST'S public art galleries once again are to throw their doors open on a Thursday evening.

Venues around the city will remain open until 9pm on the first Thursday of every month, as part of the 'Late Night Art' initiative, organised by Belfast City Council in partnership with Culture Northern Ireland. The next opening is scheduled for Thursday November 6.

A new addition to the 'Late Night Art' programme is a guided coach tour of the various galleries, leaving the Ormeau Baths Gallery at 6.30pm. Tickets for the coach tour cost £5 and are available from either www.belfast-galleries.com or the Belfast Welcome Centre in Donegall Place.

Featured exhibitions for November are:

Belfast Exposed (Donegall Street) - 'A Century of Spin', an exhibition of PR photography over the years, from Factotum;

Belfast Print Workshop Gallery (Waring Street) - 'Revisioning Australia', works by a number of Western-trained and urban-based indigenous Australian artists;

Catalyst Arts (College Court) - 2008 Student Show, showcasing the best work in photography, sculpture, drawing and other multi-disciplinary practices by artists from across the British Isles;

Engine Room Gallery (Newtownards Road) - a collection of abstract art from the collection of the Fenderesky Gallery;

Gerard Dillon Gallery (An Culturlann, Falls Road) - a selection of bronze and Irish bog oak sculptures, and selected seascapes and landscapes,

by Philip Goss;

Golden Thread Gallery (Great Patrick Street) - the main gallery hosts a major new solo exhibition of Paul Seawright's photographic works, with a particular focus on his Northern Irish series, while the project space offers a rare opportunity to view an important body of new work by the intriguing Ian Charlesworth;

Naughton Gallery at Queen's - 'Inside Stories - Memories from The Maze and Long Kesh', directed by Cahal McLaughlin;

Ormeau Baths Gallery (Ormeau Avenue) - 'Wonderland', a collaborative project between artist/designer Helen Storey, scientist Tony Ryan and textile designers from Interface at the University of Ulster;

PLACE (Fountain Street) - 'Greenprint: Design for Sustainable Living', a exhibition looking at how to design sustainable housing, with practical examples from England; and

Space Craft (Fountain Centre, College Street) - 'It's A Ring Thing', an exhibition of 50 rings by the Craft and Design Collective, showcasing the work of 30 artists, designers and ring makers.

A special 'Late Night Art' party will be held afterwards in the Black Box, starting at 9pm.

For full details of all the galleries and exhibitions, visit www.belfastgalleries.com, where you can also download maps and podcasts, enter competitions and sign up for regular email bulletins. This month you can win two specially commissioned sculptures by Belfast artist Anto Brennan when you subscribe to the free newsletter.

BCCM

18



VISUAL ARTS

Belfast City Council is offering free late-night art tours around the city on the first Thursday of each month.

AP Maginness braved the elements and discovered an array of delights.....Weekend, P27



Paint The Town Red with Late Night Art

Art Galleries replace shopping as the new Thursday night past-time for culture vultures in the city

Anne-Marie's Adventures: Mission: To get arty in the city on a Thursday night

Last night (Thursday October 2) saw the first Late Night Art walking tour of selected art galleries and the Merchant Hotel in the centre of Belfast. The howling wind and pouring rain subsided, providing a clear evening to wander around the city's arty Cathedral Quarter.



The meeting point was Belfast Exposed gallery where the director, Pauline Hadaway, gave a talk about their latest exhibition, *The Last Things* by English photographer David Moore. A healthy turnout of around 40 to 50 art enthusiasts filled the venue.

Then it was off to the newly opened Red Barn Gallery with tour guide Susan McKeever, an artist herself. Red Barn founders Frankie Quinn and Gary Hewitt discussed their work as tourists viewed the photography that adorned the walls, some modern, some historical, all good.

Modern colourful photographs of the Waterfront area of Belfast and the Giant's Causeway mix seamlessly with images of peace lines and murals. Amongst the work were striking black and white photographs from the late John White, capturing 1960s Belfast at the beginning of the Troubles.

When we arrive at the five star Merchant Hotel, we're treated to a tour of beautiful artwork in a grandiose setting. The party is greeted by the delightful William Magee, head concierge, who talks about the art, the décor and the hotel itself, now famous for being home to the most expensive cocktail in the world at £750 a glass! Look it up in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Among the luxurious suites in the Merchant, several are named after well known Northern Irish literary personalities including, CS Lewis, Seamus Heaney, Louis MacNeice and Brian Friel. We're told that, on

showing Heaney to the suite named after him, the poet told the concierge 'You work in the temple of progress'.

A beautiful painting of screen legend Audrey Hepburn hangs on the wall, but at £9,995 it's a bit out of budget! We get a brief tour of this up-market venue, taking in the sparkling chandeliers, the stylish grand piano and the expensive cocktail bar, then it's across the street to the Belfast Print Workshop Gallery.

Another talk ensues - time to view more art and an elevator trip up to the studio where the artists work.

Next stop, Golden Thread Art Gallery. This is a large, spacious venue and a launch is taking place with Declan McGonagle, curator of their latest exhibition, *A Shout in the Street*. Paintings, murals, video footage and a reconstructed bonfire form part of the collection.

This is the last art gallery on our tour before heading to 2Taps where the Sangria flows freely and the tour wraps up. Incidentally, there's some great art on the walls here too. Everyone's in jovial form and looking forward to the next gallery tour.

With wine at every stop, some great artwork, interesting speakers and a wonderful tour guide at the helm with a bubbly personality and a wealth of knowledge, we can't help but enjoy ourselves. Who needs late night shopping when you've got Late Night Art?

Anne-Marie Marquess



Late night openings providing 'bridge' into art world

Along with the late openings, a website has been launched (www.belfastgalleries.com) that compiles a thorough listing of all the art events and exhibitions going on in Belfast.

It may be a small step but this will hopefully herald the beginning of more of an interest being taken in the visual arts by the general public, providing another bridge into a world often seen as elite and closed off to us mere mortals.

These late opening evenings are following the example of art galleries all over Europe and also in Ireland and UK and are aimed at making a visit to an art gallery a relaxed, social event and alternative form of entertainment rather than a

THE LAST WORD

By Ciara Hickey

THIS Thursday, art galleries all over Belfast will be opening their doors until 9pm for the second of the Late Night Art evenings that have taken place this summer.

This is an initiative set up by the City Council aimed at promoting the visual arts in Belfast, and happens on the first Thursday of every month.



ARRESTING IMAGE: Last Riot at Ormeau Baths Gallery in Belfast runs until September 27

place to feel intimidated or confused.

The fact that most other capital cities in Europe have had late night

openings for years only highlights that for most of Europe, art is much more integrated into society.

People have a more relaxed attitude

and familiarity with it. Admittedly, this has something to do with the way we are educated (or not) on art and also by the many forms of entertainment that now compete for our attention and which usually move at a much faster pace. It can indeed take more effort to engage in this slightly more aloof art form.

However, the first step is getting into the spaces, being comfortable in them and eventually feeling ownership of them, after all these are public places, and are dependent on money from your taxes. So this Thursday, for something a little different, get into the city and pop into one of the many galleries Belfast has to offer.

News Letter

www.newsletter.co.uk

6 News Letter, Tuesday, August 5, 2008

News

Briefs

City art galleries to open late

BELFAST: All of the city's art galleries are set to throw their doors open late on Thursday evening this week. Venues around the city will remain open until 9pm on the first Thursday of every month.

This Thursday will see the Belfast Print Workshop, Catalyst Arts, Engine Room, the Gerard Dillon Gallery, Golden Thread, Ormeau Baths and the Naughton Gallery at Queen's all open late.

Guided tours and artists' talks, as well as music and wine, will be included in the free-of-charge promotions, which aim to encourage both residents and visitors to explore Belfast's rich and diverse cultural life.

As part of the initiative, a number of local bars will also be staging special promotions for visitors to the galleries. For full details of all the galleries and exhibitions, associated promotions, as well as podcasts, competitions and to sign up for regular email bulletins, visit www.belfastgalleries.com.

● See page 22

Beccy

9

First Thursday visits to city galleries

THIS month marks the start of a new series of late night public gallery openings across Belfast.

The 'First Thursdays' initiative is being organised by Belfast City Council in partner-

ship with Culture Northern Ireland and will involve venues remaining open until 9pm on the first Thursday of every month.

Guided tours and artists' talks as well as music and wine will be included in the free-of-

charge promotions aiming to encourage visitors and locals to explore Belfast's rich and diverse cultural life.

Tourism

Councillor Michael Browne, Chairman of Belfast City Council's Development committee, is a strong advocate of culture playing a vital role in the continued development of

tourism.

"It is vital that we promote the rich and diverse artistic background and the explosion of contemporary artistic talent that we have in the city as part of our overall tourism strategy."

■ For up to date 'First Thursdays' information sign up to monthly free ebulletins at www.belfastgalleries.com

NEWS LETTER

PAGE: 4

Beccy

DATE: Tuesday 4th November 2008

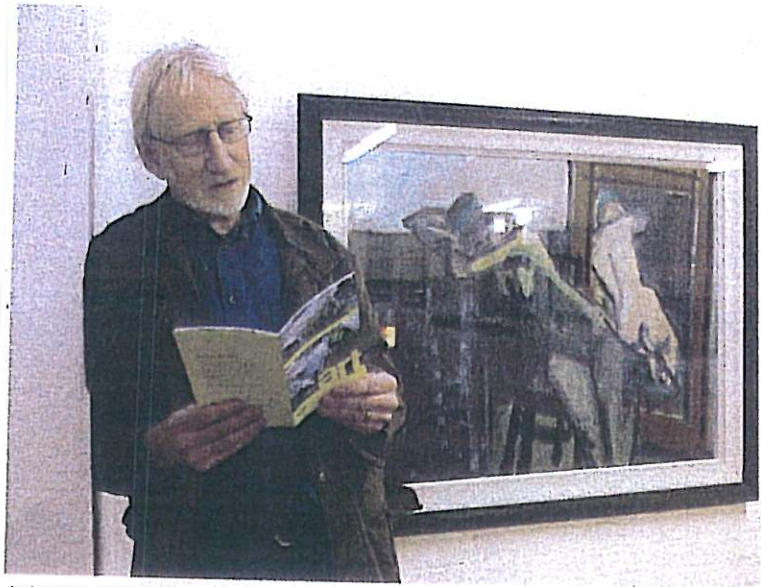
10

Late night galleries

BELFAST: Art galleries in the city are set to once again keep their doors open late one night a week.

The public galleries, located across the city, will remain open until 9pm on the first Thursday of every month as part of the Late Night Art initiative.

Organised by Belfast City Council in partnership with Culture Northern Ireland, the next opening is scheduled for this Thursday.



Artist Brian Ballard is among those supporting the First Thursdays venture

First Thursdays for art

Belfast's vibrant arts scene is enjoying a welcome boost with the start of a new series of late night public gallery openings across Belfast. The 'First Thursdays' initiative is being organised by Belfast City Council in partnership with Culture Northern Ireland and will involve venues remaining open until 9pm on the first Thursday of every month.

Guided tours and artists' talks as well as music and wine will be included in the free-of-charge promotions aiming to encourage visitors and locals to explore Belfast's rich and diverse cultural life. The website (www.belfastgalleries.com) includes full exhibition listings for public and private galleries.

July 2008

An artistic odyssey

In a new initiative Belfast City Council is offering a free late night art tour around the city's best galleries on the first Thursday of each month. **AP Maginness** braved the elements and discovered an array of artistic delights to be found dotted around the city

It may have been a cold and blustery October evening but there was a sizeable – if motley – crew of around 35 art enthusiasts already assembled at Donegall Street's Belfast Exposed Gallery when I arrived for the city council organised art tour.

The tour had been organised to take advantage of a new council supported initiative in which galleries open their doors until 9pm the first Thursday of each month. Each month the tour is led by a different artist and tickets are free but need to be booked in advance.

The rain looked like it would stay off so the council organisers made the brave decision to forgo the minibus – the usual for the tour – and instead we were allowed to perambulate our way around the more central city galleries. First on our list was the Red Barn Gallery located beside Rosemary Street Church, just off Royal Avenue.

The Red Barn's arched ceilings and original bar are still in situ, decorated with the thick glass bases of age old wine bottles, recalling the building's former life as a drinking den. The gallery is relatively new – it opened in

August 2008 – and there are several photographic exhibitions running at once in the atmospheric space.

An ongoing exhibition in the gallery contains photographic work from the founders, as well as a selection of never before seen images by the late photographer John White.

The exhibition provides a wonderful photographic time-line of Belfast, from the black and white days of pre-Troubles life to the colourful post-Troubles era of bright lights and modern architecture.

The gallery would be a haven for any tourist seeking an insight into the city over the years and yet it would be equally fascinating for someone who has lived in Belfast all their life. It is an intriguing space but time waits for no-one and we were shuffled out and off to our next destination.

Strangely it was the Merchant Hotel. I smell a plug, thinking that the Merchant has no gallery and was merely involved to entice tourists to buy their expensive cocktails.

But not a bit of it. Instead this section of the tour turned out to be perhaps the most interesting of all the galleries.

In the hotel check-in lobby there was a collection of a dozen or so pieces of art for sale that were supplied by the Coloured Rain Gallery in Templepatrick.

An introduction was supplied by the colourful character that is William, an older gent in a top hat and tails who is part of the hotel's concierge service.

As he waxed lyrical about the hotel it became apparent that the pictures hanging on the wall were merely a sideline and the real art was actually the hotel itself, such is the decadent splendour of the place.

There was little time to gaze in awe at the spectacular main dining room as we were off again, cutting through the Cathedral Quarter and over to Corporation Street and onto the Switchroom Gallery.

I had no idea that there was a gallery situated here as my only previous encounter with Corporation Street was with the drudgery of sorting out my unemployment benefit in the dole office which sits opposite the gallery. No such drudgery here.

In the Switchroom, which is a massive space inhabited by a kaleidoscope of differing genres

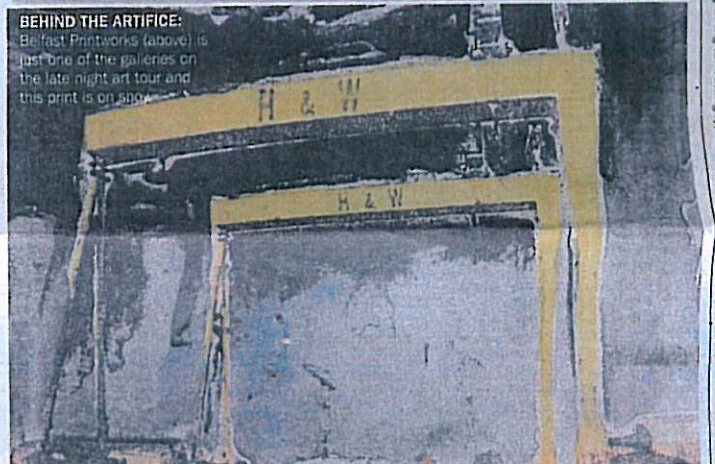
of art from sculpture to environmental, the sheer number of things going on wasn't helped by the wine that had been provided at each previous venue, as an already fuzzy head was further clouded into a nebulous mix of noises and images.

However, we were shuffled on again and the cold air brought enough clarity to make it to



BEHIND THE ARTIFICE:

Belfast Printworks (above) is just one of the galleries on the late night art tour and this print is on show.



Belfast Printworkshop at Waring Street, our final destination.

The Printworkshop is a fascinating place and unique in the fact that we get to see behind the artifice as the printers many and varied tools are in full view on the top floor of the gallery.

The exhibition 3D – Off The Page, once again became a sideline and our numbers inside the gallery became depleted as the thought of the sangria and tapas being served next door in Tapa2 became too much for even the most dedicated art lovers.

And so our artistic odyssey came to an end.

FACTFILE

THE next series of Late Night Art events will be held in Belfast on Thursday November 6. Public art galleries will remain open until 9pm and for anyone who doesn't want to walk between exhibitions, there will also be a guided coach tour, which will leave the Ormeau Baths Gallery at 6.30pm. A Late Night Art party will be held in the Black Box, Hill Street, starting at 9pm. This month's featured exhibitions include:

■ Belfast Exposed (Donegall Street) A Century of Spin, an exhibition of PR photography over the years, from Factotum

■ Belfast Print Workshop Gallery (Waring Street) Revisioning Australia, works by a number of Western-trained and urban-based indigenous Australian artists

■ Catalyst Arts (College Court) 2008 Student Show, showcasing the best work in photography, sculpture, drawing and other multi-

disciplinary practices by artists from across the British Isles

■ Tickets for the coach tour cost £5 and are available from either www.belfastgalleries.com or the Belfast Welcome Centre in Donegall Place.

The Late Night Art Initiative is organised by Belfast City Council in partnership with Culture Northern Ireland.

For full details of all the galleries and exhibitions, visit www.belfastgalleries.com

“

The sheer number of things going on wasn't helped by the wine that had been provided at each previous venue, an already cloudy head was further clouded into a nebulous mix of noises and images

Bcc

18

Size/Val:	
Rating:	
Subject:	

Late night opening for city's art galleries

BELFAST'S public art galleries once again are to throw their doors open on a Thursday evening.

Venues around the city will remain open until 9pm on the first Thursday of every month.

The next opening is scheduled for August 7.

Galleries taking part are Belfast Exposed, Belfast Print Workshop, Catalyst Arts, Engine Room, the Gerard Dillon Gallery, Golden

Thread, Ormeau Baths and the Naughton Gallery at Queen's.

Guided tours and artists' talks, as well as music and wine, will be included in the free-of-charge promotions, which aim to encourage both residents and visitors to explore Belfast's rich and diverse cultural life.

Among this month's highlights will be a special preview of 'Splattered', described as "explorative art" and featuring graffiti, filmmaking and paintbombing by

artists taking part in the Urban Arts event at the Belfast Waterfront. 'Splattered' is at the Golden Thread Gallery and officially opens on Friday, August 9.

Other featured exhibitions for August are:

- Last Riot, a digital photography and video masterpiece from the innovative Russian collective, AES+F, at the Ormeau Baths Gallery;

- Re COLLECT ing, Queen's University's centenary exhibition

featuring work relating to the idea of cultural materialism, at the Naughton Gallery at Queen's.

For full details of all the galleries and exhibitions, associated promotions, as well as podcasts, competitions and to sign up for regular email bulletins, visit www.belfast-galleries.com

The late opening is organised by Belfast City Council in partnership with Culture Northern Ireland.