

# Drawing on Cirencester

## Scenes of Cirencester over 250 years

**This exhibition explores how the town has been depicted using the most direct and simplest of artist techniques - drawing.**

The earliest work dates from nearly 230 years ago and is by Joseph Farington, a topographical artist known for his series of British views and monuments who visited the town in 1790.

The tradition of itinerant artists visiting the more picturesque towns and landscapes of Britain was important particularly in the 18th century. They would work for local gentry often staying at the great country houses and estates which they were commissioned to record. They made a living through this and by publishing their work in books often in series relating to popular tourist routes.

In an age before the camera or mobile phone, drawing was the simplest way to depict the local scene and these drawings provide an important record of the town.



**Cirencester, Glos** by G E Perceval Hornblower who was visiting from Oxfordshire, drawn on September 9th and 10th 1929 with note that it took him 2 ¾ hrs.

Drawings were good for capturing the spirit of the place and often have a freedom of expression which the more expensive record, an oil painting, did not have. They would be made outside, the artist often sitting for many hours to make his or her sketch.

Sometimes drawings were made as background research and information for an artist intending to make a painting. This can be seen in the sketches of the Norman Arch by John Claude Nattes, shown together here with his painting, probably for the first time since they were made two hundred years ago.

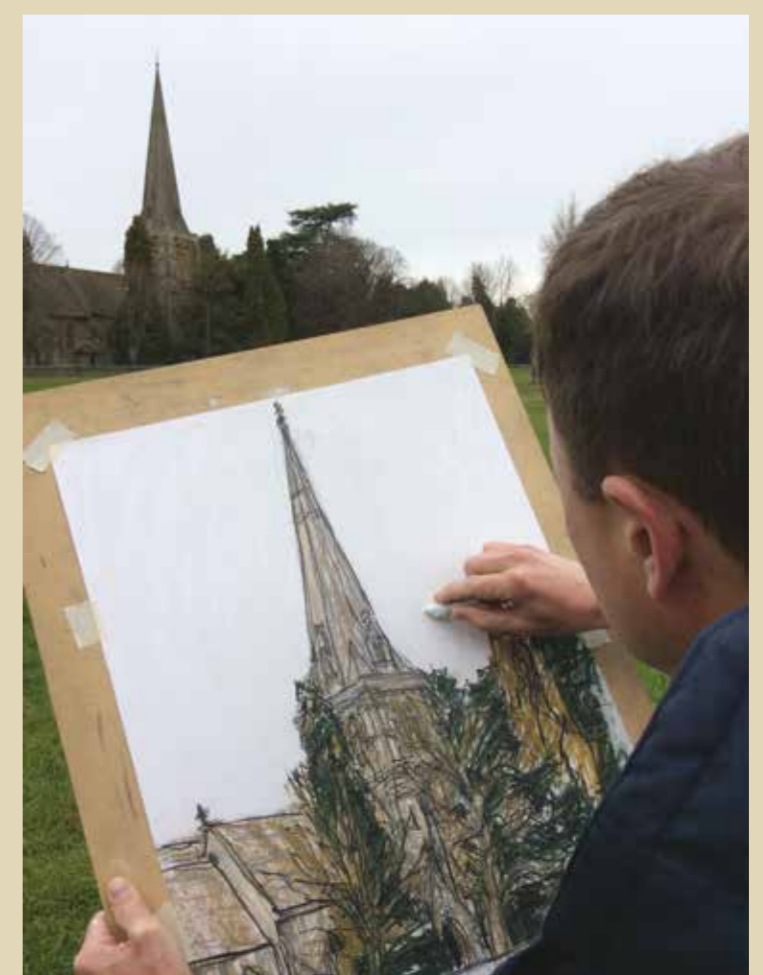
With the advent of the camera, drawing was no longer needed to capture a topographical record. However it has remained popular with artists as can be seen in the

20th and 21st century records of the town included here. Artists have used drawing for a range of purposes; to record the details of buildings and landscapes, to explore the medium itself and the effects that can be created using pencil, pen or crayon, and as a means of expressing the way they see the world.

The exhibition is based on works from the collection of the Bingham Library Trust, with the addition of generous loans from Corinium Museum, Cirencester.

**Saturday 1 October  
10.00 – 2.00**

Big Draw event linked to the exhibition – visitors will be able to make a drawing of their own inspired by the exhibition. Drop in free event suitable for all ages.



**Laurie Plant drawing Watermoor Church, Cirencester, 2012.**



**Cirencester Church from bedroom window, 1884-88, from the sketchbook of Mrs Wilfrid Cripps.**