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**BOWERS
MUSEUM**

Discover the Truth Behind Fantasy in a New Exhibition at Bowers Museum



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Santa Ana, CA – August 19, 2024 –Bowers Museum announces a new partnership with the British Library to present *Fantasy: Realms of Imagination*, the most comprehensive look ever at the origins and development of fantasy as a genre of books, films, television, games, and more. The exhibition will run from October 26, 2024, to February 16, 2025.

Fantasy celebrates some of the finest creators in the genre, both revealing how their imagined lands, languages, and creatures came into being, and why their works have built up some of the most passionate and enduring fandoms. Visitors will journey from early works, such as *The Arabian Nights* and Thomas Moore's *Utopia*, to more recent masterpieces by creators including Ursula K. Le Guin, Hayao Miyazaki, N.K. Jemisin, Susanna Clarke, Angela Carter, Terry Pratchett, China Miéville, and Jeannette Ng.

Bowers Museum invites visitors to discover 160 fantastical items that include costumes, historical manuscripts, rare first editions, drafts of iconic novels, scripts, maps, original artwork,

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film props, and immersive multimedia experiences that you have to see to believe. Gather your fellow adventurers and step through the doors of Bowers Museum into the realms of fantasy as they have never been chronicled before. Who knows where your journey will lead...

Exhibition Highlights:

- **Original Manuscripts and Rare First Editions:** Featuring works from the 14th century to modern day, including *The Arabian Nights*, Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*, Thomas Moore's *Utopia*, fairytales by The Brothers Grimm, and first editions like Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.
- **Costumes and Film Props:** Iconic items from beloved fantasy films, theatre and television, props from *The Dark Crystal* (1982) and costumes from the musical *Wicked*.
- **Drafts and Scripts:** Insight into the creative process behind some of the most iconic novels and screenplays in the fantasy genre, including *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975), and *A Wizard of Earthsea*.
- **Maps and Illustrations:** Detailed maps and stunning illustrations that bring the intricate worlds of fantasy to life, including concept drawings for *Labyrinth* (1986).
- **Immersive Multimedia Experiences:** Interactive installations including gaming that allow visitors to step into the realms of fantasy, creating a truly immersive experience.

Details:

- **Exhibition Dates:** October 26, 2024 – February 16, 2025
- **Location:** Bowers Museum, 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706
- **Opening Hours:** Tuesday - Sunday, 10 AM - 4 PM
- **Admission:** General \$28, Seniors (62+) \$25, Students (with valid ID) \$25, Children (under 12) \$10, Members Free

Media Preview: October 24, 2024, from 10 AM to 12 PM. Accredited members of the press are invited to attend and experience the exhibition before it opens to the public. Please RSVP to laguilar@bowers.org by October 15, 2024, to secure your place.

About Bowers Museum: Located in Santa Ana, California, Bowers Museum has been enriching lives through the world's finest arts and culture for over 80 years. Voted best museum in Orange County for the past 30 years (2023), Bowers Museum is committed to promoting education and understanding by bringing the world's great cultural art to Southern California.

About British Library: We are the national library of the UK and we are here for everyone. Our shelves hold over 170 million items – a living collection that gets bigger every day. Although our roots extend back centuries, we aim to collect everything published in the UK today, tomorrow and far into the future. Our trusted experts care for this collection and open it up for everyone to spark new discoveries, ideas and to help people do incredible things.

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We have millions of books, and much more besides. Our London and Yorkshire sites hold collections ranging from newspapers and maps to sound recordings, patents, academic journals, as well as a copy of every UK domain website and blog. Our public spaces provide a place to research, to meet friends, to start up a new business or simply to get inspired by visiting our galleries and events. We work with partners and libraries across the UK and the world to make sure that as many people as possible have the chance to use and explore our collections, events and expertise. And we're always open online, along with more and more of our digitized collection.

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Fantasy: Realms of Imagination is a British Library exhibition with contributions from Bowers Museum.

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