



SOUTHBANK CENTRE

PLAY CREATE REFLECT

EXHIBITION COMPANION & DISCOVERY GUIDE

Tavares Strachan
THERE IS LIGHT
SOMEWHERE

UNTIL 1 SEP

**HAYWARD
GALLERY**

About this Arts & Wellbeing resource

Welcome to *Play, Create, Reflect*, a companion resource to support you to take time to discover and explore the *Tavares Strachan: There Is Light Somewhere* exhibition in new ways.

This exhibition showcases the remarkably inventive ways in which Strachan has celebrated unsung explorers and cultural trailblazers, inviting us to engage with overlooked characters whose stories represent and illuminate histories hidden by bias.

Artists Georgia Akbar and Shepherd Manyika invite you to connect with the exhibition's themes and artworks during your visit, and in your own time through creative activities.

We hope you enjoy the exhibition and these activities.

Sarah, Liberty & Emma
from the Arts & Wellbeing team

Creative Engagement,
Southbank Centre





Standing Alone – A Practice of Visibility

In 2013, Strachan travelled to the North Pole in homage to a historic 1909 Arctic expedition by Matthew Henson (1866 – 1955), an African American man who may have been the first explorer to reach the North Pole. *Standing Alone* (2013) commemorates Henson's achievements, which have been largely overlooked.

In the exhibition catalogue, writer Ekow Eshun describes Strachan's approach to art-making as a 'practice of visibility... illuminating the lives of those otherwise overlooked; inviting consideration of which perspectives in society are represented and which are marginalised'.

Hello from the Hayward Gallery

Welcome to *Tavares Strachan: There Is Light Somewhere*. Strachan is an artist dedicated to telling 'lost stories', uncovering historical figures whose remarkable lives and achievements are not widely known. Strachan shows us that history can be rewritten in the present, creating new possibilities for the future.



As a child, looking through his grandfather's encyclopaedia, Strachan noticed that nobody from his community in the Bahamas was featured. He asked what else was missing. Years later, as an artist, he set about creating his own 'Encyclopedia of Invisibility', featuring more than 17,000 entries about places, people and things that haven't been celebrated in history books. We encounter people from Strachan's encyclopaedia throughout the exhibition.

A steamship floating on water; a giant thatched hut; and 'invisible' sculptures made from glass suspended in oil are among the extraordinary artworks on display. Strachan's curiosity and love of exploration has led him to embark on Arctic expeditions and space training, some of which are documented. By pushing the boundaries of art-making, Strachan invites us to dig deeper and explore beyond what we already know.

Thomas Sutton, Assistant Curator and Hannah Martin, Curatorial Assistant of *Tavares Strachan: There Is Light Somewhere*



Finding Light with Georgia Akbar

'It is necessary, while in darkness, to know that there is a light somewhere, to know that in oneself, waiting to be found, there is a light.'

– James Baldwin

Look out for Strachan's neon light sculpture, *There Is a Light in Darkness*, inspired by James Baldwin.

For me, an inner light is the part of us that finds strength and hope even when things feel hard.

I find mine when having interesting, honest conversations with people

I trust, or when I feel free to really laugh and dance.



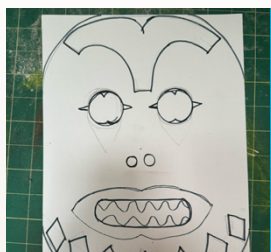
- 'What do you do to find and hold onto your 'inner light' in challenging moments?
- Is there a person, place or activity that helps you discover it?

*One discovers the light, in darkness
that is what darkness is for; but
everything in our lives depends on
how we bear the light
It is necessary, while in darkness
to know that there is a light somewhere,
to know that in oneself, waiting
to be found, there is a light.*

Making Masks with Shepherd Manyika

There Is Light Somewhere features many faces, some hidden by masks or inside objects. Strachan uses this technique to shine a light on people and moments in history that have been overlooked.

- Can you design a mask to highlight someone who is important to you?
- What would the mask say about them?



Here is an example

Cut out a shape big enough to cover your face – it can be a circle, square, triangle or another shape.

Draw and cut out some eyes and a mouth. Think back to what you saw in the exhibition.



Decorate it and add a handle to your mask.



Take a photo of yourself and someone else wearing the mask.





Materials

Recycled cardboard or thick paper

Tape

Scissors

Old magazines for decorating your mask

Any other materials useful for your mask

Image credits

Cover

Installation view of *Intergalactic Palace*, 2024. From the exhibition *Tavares Strachan: There Is Light Somewhere*. Courtesy the artist and the Hayward Gallery. Photo by Mark Blower.

Content images

Installation view of *Who Deserves Aquamarine, Black, and Gold, (FLAG)*, 2005 – 2006. Flag: cotton, linen. Lightbox, print. Courtesy the artist.

Installation view of *Six Thousand Years*, 2018. From the exhibition

Tavares Strachan: There Is Light Somewhere. Courtesy the artist and the Hayward Gallery. Photo by Mark Blower.

Installation view of *There Is a Light in Darkness*, 2024. From the exhibition *Tavares Strachan: There Is Light Somewhere*. Courtesy the artist and the Hayward Gallery. Photo by Mark Blower.

Distant Relatives (Mary J Seacole), 2020. Courtesy the artist and Marian Goodman. Photo by Tom Powel Imaging.

Relaxed Hours at the Hayward Gallery

We welcome everyone to the gallery throughout opening hours, while recognising some of our visitors may need additional support to experience exhibitions fully. Our Relaxed programme provides a more relaxed environment for those with sensory processing differences, neurodivergent visitors or those living with neurological conditions, as well as early-year visitors, parents and carers.

Relaxed Hours: Tavares Strachan takes place on **Wednesday 30 July 2024, 10am – 3pm**

Relaxed Hours events include:

- Guided tours of the exhibition
- Touchable materials
- Relaxed Hours studio spaces with workshops and activity for you to play, create and reflect with artists
- Take up space with reduced exhibition capacity
- A chill-out space is available
- Preparation and visual stories sent out to all bookers in advance

We encourage visitors to work with us to prioritise their own needs when visiting. Sensory Backpacks and noise-cancelling headphones are always available at all times from the Ticket Office in the Hayward Gallery Foyer.

Book via our website or request access to our community bursary tickets:

haywardrelaxedhours@southbankcentre.co.uk.



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

PLAY, CREATE, REFLECT

RELAXED HOURS AT
THE HAYWARD GALLERY

For more information visit:

[southbankcentre.co.uk/creative-engagement/
arts-wellbeing](https://southbankcentre.co.uk/creative-engagement/arts-wellbeing)

Get in touch with us!

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Or call and leave a message on 020 7960 4206

