

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN®



In Cinemas Nationwide from 15th September 2026

“An artist is not paid for his labour but for his vision.”

James McNeill Whistler

London, UK, (03/08/2026) In an era of great change and great beauty emerged the character of **James McNeill Whistler**. Considered by some to be one of the great innovators of 19th century art, he was a contemporary of the Impressionists, much admired by Van Gogh and Manet, and a truly unique character.

Tate Britain is currently staging the first major retrospective of Whistler in three decades. This blockbuster exhibition promises to reawaken the world to just how important Whistler is to art history, uniting world-famous masterpieces with rarely seen works.

Working in close collaboration with Tate Britain, **Exhibition on Screen**, the award-winning film company and unique arts brand behind critically acclaimed film releases

Vermeer: The Greatest Exhibition, Caravaggio and Frida Kahlo, is releasing **JAMES MCNEILL WHISTLER** about the pioneering artist's stunning works and the incredible story behind them to cinemas around the world while the exhibition is still running.

Bringing this truly global artist to a global audience, **JAMES MCNEILL WHISTLER** will be an unmissable chance to see this visually spectacular artist on the big screen and appreciate the influence he has had on those who followed.

Boldly experimental and famously witty and irascible, Whistler disrupted the strict conventions of Victorian society in pursuit of a new cult of beauty, creating "art for art's sake" and earning himself a place in the history of great art.

He found a parallel between painting and music, and entitled many of his paintings "arrangements", "harmonies" and "nocturnes", emphasizing the importance of tonal harmony in his work.

Known for a number of striking publicity-conscious self-portraits, Oscar Wilde once said of Whistler, "Mr. Whistler always spelt art, and I believe still spells it, with a capital I".

Whistler's most famous painting, *Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1* (1871), commonly known as *Whistler's Mother*, is a revered and often parodied portrait of motherhood. It is arguably one of the most famous paintings in history and this film will unveil the artist behind the art.

Directed by David Bickerstaff and produced by Phil Grabsky, the BAFTA winning founder of **Exhibition on Screen**, **JAMES MCNEILL WHISTLER** will be shown in cinemas nationwide from 15th September 2026.

Step into the captivating world of rule-breaking American artist James McNeill Whistler, thanks to **Exhibition on Screen's** privileged access.

JAMES MCNEILL WHISTLER

Directed by David Bickerstaff and produced by Phil Grabsky.

Runtime: 90 mins.

Watch the **TRAILER** [here](#)

Find a screening: [Here](#)

For all press enquiries, including preview screeners, high-resolution images and interview requests please contact:

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James McNeill Whistler
at Tate Britain until
27th September 2026

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Available for Interview:

David Bickerstaff – Director

Phil Grabsky – Producer and founder of Exhibition on Screen

Exhibition on Screen

2022 represented a milestone for *Exhibition on Screen* as the award-winning company celebrated a decade of bringing art films to cinemas across the world. It was then in 2023 that it broke box office records with **Vermeer: The Greatest Exhibition**, which became the highest grossing art documentary in UK history. Since its launch, *Exhibition on Screen* has released over 35 films and sold more than six million cinema seats across the globe – from London to Los Angeles, Berlin to Brisbane.

Exhibition on Screen creates cinematic journeys into the personal and creative lives of history's best-loved artists and their work. Amongst the roster to date are deep dives into the life and careers of Vermeer, Frida Kahlo, Edward Hopper, Rembrandt, Matisse, Munch and Monet, to name just a few.

David Bickerstaff (Director)

David Bickerstaff is an artist and award-winning filmmaker who founded Atomictv in 1997 as an umbrella organisation for developing digital art projects and collaborations. His documentary work and video installations such as *The Lukhang*, *Hygieia*, *Heavy Water: a film for Chernobyl* and *Making War Horse* have been broadcast in Britain and shown in many international festivals and exhibitions.

David has been collaborating with producer Phil Grabsky at Exhibition on Screen, for a number of years, directing, filming and co-writing feature-length art documentaries including *Vermeer: The Greatest Exhibition*.

He is also the Creative Director at NewAngle Productions, a design practice that produces video installations and interactives for visitor attractions.

Phil Grabsky (Director/Producer)

Phil Grabsky is a BAFTA-winning British documentary filmmaker who has received multiple awards for his directing, writing, producing and cinematography. He and his company Seventh Art Productions are behind *My Childhood, My Country – 20 Years in Afghanistan*, which won more than a dozen awards including Best Single Documentary at the 2022 Television BAFTAs and was also BAFTA nominated for its cinematography. He has made over 250 films which have played in cinemas and on TV and digital platforms worldwide.

In 2009, Phil and his colleagues began work on a new arts genre for the cinema: Exhibition on Screen. This brings major art exhibitions – and the intimate biographies of the artists – to cinema, mainstream television and home entertainment platforms worldwide. The Guardian newspaper said of Exhibition on Screen: 'Just occasionally something will crop up that restores your faith in humanity's future. Exhibition on Screen is a global phenomenon'. Exhibition on Screen now plays in 1500 cinemas and 60+ countries worldwide and has produced 36 films on artists including Leonardo da Vinci, Vincent van Gogh, Rembrandt, Hockney, Frida Kahlo, Raphael and many more. 2023's *VERMEER – THE GREATEST EXHIBITION* is the UK's most successful documentary film on an artist ever released and is in the top 20 UK documentaries of any genre.