# National Gallery offers chance to sleep among masterpieces



For the first time in its history, the National Gallery in London is offering an extraordinary overnight experience to one lucky winner as it prepares to reopen the Sainsbury Wing after a two-year refurbishment. This unique opportunity marks the culmination of the gallery's celebrations for its 200th anniversary, inviting a member of the public to sleep under the illustrious masterpieces adorning the walls.

Scheduled for the night of May 9, the prize draw winner will have the chance to experience an exclusive evening at the National Gallery, beginning with a complimentary dinner for two at the restaurant Locatelli, created by Michelin-starred chef Giorgio Locatelli, set to open at the museum.

Once the gallery's doors close to the public, the winner and their guest will embark on a private tour of the new exhibition, CC Land: The Wonder of Art, led by Christine Riding, the Director of Collections and Research at the National Gallery. This exhibition represents a significant rehang of the gallery’s entire collection, which includes over 1,000 works that span the development of Western European painting from the 13th to the 20th centuries. This display will feature renowned artworks, including Piero della Francesca’s *Baptism of Christ*, Jacopo di Cione’s *The San Pier Maggiore Altarpiece*, and Paolo Uccello’s recently restored *The Battle Of San Romano*, among others.

“The first time that we have had such an exciting opportunity to rethink and refresh how we present one of the greatest art collections in the world, under one roof,” Riding noted. “Our visitors will discover anew some of the most famous and iconic works of art ever created, alongside personal favourites and recent discoveries and acquisitions.”

The bed, provided by the Marks & Spencer X National Gallery collection, will be situated on the “bridge” that connects the Sainsbury Wing, known for housing early Renaissance paintings, with the rest of the gallery. Following the overnight stay, the winning individual will be treated to a breakfast hamper and will enjoy the privilege of exploring the gallery before it officially reopens to the public at 10 am on May 10.

Current subscribers to the National Gallery’s newsletter are automatically entered into the draw, which will remain open until 6 pm on April 28. This initiative comes on the heels of the gallery's prior experience with overnight events, including the successful overnight opening during the closing weekend of the sellout Van Gogh exhibition this past January.

Sir Gabriele Finaldi, the director of the National Gallery, expressed the significance of the bicentennial celebration, stating, “Our bicentenary provides the perfect opportunity to consider a new way to tell the story of the incredible paintings in our collection and include some exciting surprises.” The gallery now offers an unforgettable chance for a member of the public to be the very first to experience the newly transformed Sainsbury Wing and its treasures.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theupcoming.co.uk/2025/01/09/national-gallery-to-open-overnight-for-van-gogh-exhibition-finale/> - This article supports the claim about the National Gallery's prior experience with overnight events, specifically mentioning the successful overnight opening during the Van Gogh exhibition in January 2025. It also references the gallery's bicentennial celebrations.
2. <https://www.flolondon.co.uk/all-posts/national-gallery-van-gogh-exhibition-to-open-24-hours> - This source further corroborates the National Gallery's overnight event experience during the Van Gogh exhibition, highlighting its historical significance as only the second such event.
3. <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/press-and-media/press-releases/national-gallery-van-gogh-exhibition-to-open-24-hours-as-art-lovers-follow-in-footsteps-of-freud-and-hockney-as-rare-night-time-visitors> - This official National Gallery press release provides additional details about the Van Gogh exhibition and the gallery's engagement with nocturnal events, aligning with the bicentennial celebrations context.
4. <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/ng200-programme> - Although not directly available in the search results, this National Gallery webpage would generally support information regarding the bicentennial celebrations and new initiatives like the NG200 program.
5. <https://www.locatelli.co.uk/> - This could potentially support information about Michelin-starred chef Giorgio Locatelli and his involvement with Locatelli Restaurant, possibly at the National Gallery.
6. <https://corporate.marksandspencer.com/> - This Marks & Spencer corporate website could support details about collaborations such as the Marks & Spencer X National Gallery collection, although specific details were not found in the search results.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/apr/07/national-gallery-sleepover-prize-draw-offers-chance-to-dream-among-paintings> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
8. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/national-gallery-to-let-one-person-sleep-overnight-in-first-as-section-reopens-WP2WAY2PZBLPJIUVRF6V7D4AZE/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
9. <https://www.mylondon.news/whats-on/arts-culture-news/national-gallery-one-person-sleep-31364537> - Please view link - unable to able to access data