

FREE EVENT

Pain: mysterious, terrifying, desirable

The enemy within, a friendly warning, all in the mind and burning through every fibre. We hate it, we love it, we're fascinated by it. Join us for a dark and daring journey into the pursuit of pain: for science, for pleasure, for progress, for art and for agency.

Tonight we venture up close to pain. Be prepared to follow it through the throb, ache and discomfort, defying language.

This is a special late-night event with a bar running all night.

Adult content will feature at this event, including nudity and strong images.

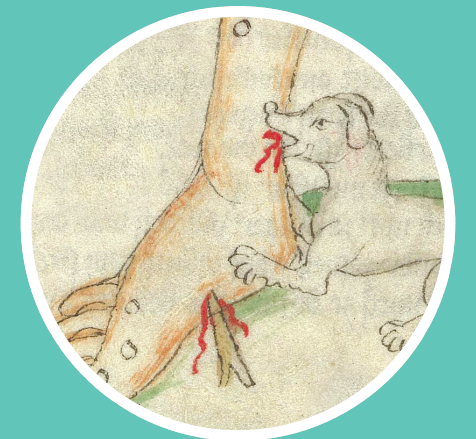
Friday 1 July
19.00–23.00

wellcome
collection

#PainSpectacular

In Pursuit of Pain

Friday Late Spectacular



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Events at Wellcome Collection

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The free destination for the incurably curious

Wellcome Collection is part of the Wellcome Trust. The Wellcome Trust is a charity registered in England and Wales, no. 210183. MP-6536.7/1.3K/06-2016/MS



Step-free access is available to all floors of the building (via platform and passenger lifts). All Auditorium talks are British Sign Language-interpreted.

These events have been booked in advance and may be fully booked. Please ask a member of staff for details.

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Don't forget to visit the exhibitions
All our exhibitions are open tonight. Follow an acoustic journey in *This is a Voice* on level 0 or explore ideas of consciousness in *States of Mind* on level 1.

Credits: This event was originally conceived by Sarah Punshon and is produced by Sally Rose. With thanks to Emily Wiles and Wellcome Collection staff.

LEVEL

-1

Williams Lounge

FILM

Ouch
19.00–23.00 | **DROP IN**

For many performance artists and audiences, pain offers challenging, exhilarating and profound experiences. *Ouch* is a collection of short archival films looking at pain and performance curated by the Live Art Development Agency. Consider both the pain artists cause themselves within their work, and the experiences of audiences as they inflict pain or are subjected to pain and discomfort themselves.

Features nudity and strong images.

Auditorium

DISCUSSIONS

Expressions of Pain: The evolutionary story
19.30–20.00

***TICKETED IN ADVANCE**
How do animals express pain? Join psychologist **Amanda C de C Williams** on a tour from limping dinosaurs and wincing crabs to grimacing mice.

IT HURTS: Art, performance and pain
20.30–21.00

***TICKETED IN ADVANCE**
Performance expert **Dominic Johnson** introduces key works in art and performance, and asks how artists deal with this topic that is so familiar yet often evades representation and communication.

Features nudity and strong images.

Childbirth and Pain Throughout History
21.30–22.00

***TICKETED IN ADVANCE**
Widely acknowledged as one of the most agonising forms of suffering, labour pains are dreaded but also desired. Historian **Joanna Bourke** explores attitudes to the pain of childbirth throughout history.

LEVEL

0

Atrium

ACTIVITY

Test Your Pain Threshold
19.00–23.00 | **DROP IN**

Try out this ice-cold test and hear about newly discovered pain pathways using simple interactive tests from King's College London.

Wellcome Café

Blanch & Shock: The Thorn
19.00–23.00 | **DROP IN**

Experiment with the burn of chilli in a cocktail inspired by the classic Bramble, but with a few twists. Try chilli with the heat removed, then select the degree of heat that suits you best.

ACTIVITY

Game Poems

19.00–23.00 | PICK UP & PLAY
Games designer **Hannah Nicklin** invites you to play or think about pain through game poems – part thought experiment, part playable joke, with the evocative abilities of poetry and the first-person perspective of games.

LEVEL

1

Medicine Now

DEMONSTRATION

Live Tattooing
19.00–23.00 | **DROP IN**

Watch close up as tattooist **Ant the Elder** adorns the bodies of willing subjects, in black ink only.

Bar

19.00–23.00

Rehydrate and refresh with a drink from the pop-up bar in *Medicine Now*.

Medicine Man

PERFORMANCE

La Petite Mort (Little Death)
19.30, 20.30, 21.30, 22.30
5–10 mins | **DROP IN**

Artist **Bean** transforms the negative patriarchal language surrounding childbirth through a group performance that occupies space and presents the female body as a vehicle of power and strength.

Features nudity.

Forum

PERFORMANCE

Breathe for Me
19.00–22.00 | **DROP IN**

This durational performance by **Martin O'Brien** considers the regulated chronically ill body. This body, turning against itself, relentlessly endures as a form of resistance to illness. Martin is beaten, bruised, cut, penetrated, exhausted, suffocated, examined and treated in a regime of suffering in order to survive.

Features nudity and strong images.

Studio

INSTALLATION

Visualising Pain
19.00–23.00 | **DROP IN**

It can be surprisingly difficult to explain your pain to a doctor. See photographs co-created by artist **Deborah Padfield** and people being treated for pain at UCLH. By creating these images, those in pain retain control of how their pain is visualised and can have a more negotiated dialogue in the consulting room.

DISCUSSION

Visualising Pain: Round table
20.00–20.40 | **DROP IN**

Speak with artist **Deborah Padfield**, facial pain specialist **Joanna Zakrzewska**, and **Alison Glenn**, who lives with facial pain.

LEVEL

2

Reading Room

PERFORMANCE/DISCUSSION

The Shape of Pain
19.15–19.45 | **FIRST COME, FIRST SEATED**

An extract from a new performance – conceived and directed by **Rachel Bagshaw** and written by **Chris Thorpe** – about love, perception and constant, relentless pain. Afterwards, you can hear a conversation between Rachel and her clinical consultant, **Helen Cohen**.

ACTIVITY

THAT SMARTS!
19.45–23.00 | **DROP IN**

Test out wearable devices and sensory illusions that manipulate how we experience our bodies. Speak with researchers to hear how these smart technologies can transform the management of chronic pain.

GAME

Murmurs: A game for racing hearts
19.00–23.00, game takes about 15 mins | **DROP IN, LIMITED PLAYERS**

Two teams face off in a game of stealth and exuberance, played with wrist-based heart-rate monitors. Athletes in pursuit of painful feats of great endurance listen to their hearts to measure their performance and wellbeing. This game, by **Hannah Nicklin**, will play by monitoring heart rate, one of the most human measures of pain, pleasure, excitement and wellbeing.

Meet in the Wellcome Library entrance

PERFORMANCE

An Onset
19.15–22.45, performances start every 30 mins and last 15 mins | **FIRST COME, FIRST SEATED**

A short solo performance by **Ira Brand**, sharing a conversation about chronic pain. A conversation with me, with you, with her, with doctors, and with bodies that dictate how we live.