New Ai Weiwei print ‘drops’ as IWM London reopens to public

Imperial War Museums (IWM) has announced that it will reopen its London-based branch on 1 August 2020, following three months of closure due to the pandemic.

Visitors returning to IWM London will be welcomed back by a brand new addition to the museum’s iconic Atrium – a commission from the internationally renowned artist Ai Weiwei, titled *History of Bombs*.

To celebrate the museum’s reopening, IWM will also be launching a new range of Ai Weiwei products, including a limited-edition *History of Bombs* print. These exclusive prints will come with a certificate of authenticity, bearing the artist’s digital signature, and will only be available in store at IWM London, from 1 August 2020 while stocks last.

Courtesy Lisson Gallery. Photography by Gao Yuan

History of Bombs (below) is a site-specific artwork that forms part of IWM's *Refugees* season. It draws on the artist's ongoing investigation into politics and power, exploring international migration, conflict as a root cause of human flow, and the relationship between the individual, society and the state.

Covering over 1,000 square feet, Ai's takeover of the museum's Atrium is the first time that the space has been given over in its entirety to an artist. Visitors are encouraged to book their free timed-tickets online at iwm.org.uk. Members will have priority booking from Friday 10 July with public bookings opening on Wednesday 15 July.

Diane Lees, director-general of IWM, said: “Not since the Second World War has IWM been forced to close its doors entirely to visitors, but we’re so pleased to share the news that IWM London will be open to visitors once more from 1 August 2020. While our doors have been shut, we’ve been working hard behind the scenes to make sure an extraordinary new artwork is ready to welcome our visitors back into the museum. We’re glad that that the results of that work will soon be experienced, as visitors see Ai Weiwei’s History of Bombs for the first time.”

Spearheading IWM’s *Refugees* season, *History of Bombs* by Ai Weiwei will . *Refugees*, which includes an extensive programme of exhibitions and events, will be rolled out in phases across

IWM London and IWM North for the duration of the rest of the year. Highlights include *Refugees: Forced to Flee* (from 24 September 2020) at IWM.

Related: Banksy’s Greatest Hits, featuring both iconic and lesser-known artworks

https://www.digitalartsonline.co.uk/news/printing/new-ai-weiwei-print-drops-as-iwm-london-reopens-public/