

For immediate release

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Welcome to The Robot Zoo – meet giant robot animals at the Horniman

Where can you meet a robotic rhino, a squid with 18-foot tentacles and a huge housefly with a vacuum cleaner for a mouth? **The Robot Zoo** is home to all these and more and opens at the Horniman Museum and Gardens in South London on Friday 14 February 2025.

The Robot Zoo houses larger-than-life-size robot animals made from familiar machine parts and gadgets, in an exciting hands-on family exhibition revealing some of nature's most amazing adaptations. Through interactive games and challenges, **The Robot Zoo** reveals how a chameleon changes colour, what makes grasshoppers leap so high, and exactly why a platypus looks so strange.

Using pistons for muscles, pipes instead of intestines, and computerised 'brains', the robot animals show how their real life counterparts see, hear, hunt, hide and move. And through other interactive exhibits visitors can try their hand at squid racing and fire a chameleon's 'tongue-gun'.

In addition are two specially commissioned interactive murals by artist Giulia Casarotto, inspired by the exhibition. Spot the chameleons hiding on a mural co-produced with a local Polish singing group for children. Or play a sorting game to match animals with their correct habitat.

Louis Buckley, Senior Curator of Natural History says: 'These extraordinary robots are based on some equally amazing animals. These machines have been built to show how flies can walk on ceilings, chameleons change colour and squid move through water. My personal favourite is the six-foot robot bat hanging upside down, but I'm sure families will love meeting all sorts of mechanical creatures, from giraffes to grasshoppers!'

More

The Robot Zoo opens at the Horniman Museum and Gardens from Friday 14 February to Sunday 2 November 2025. The Horniman will also host a special programme of events linked to the exhibition. Please see the website - horniman.ac.uk - for details.

Tickets to The Robot Zoo are on sale now. Please go to the website – horniman.ac.uk – to book. Horniman Members and Benefactors enjoy free, unlimited entry to the exhibition.

The Robot Zoo is produced by Evergreen Exhibitions.

Ends

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - press@horniman.ac.uk

Pictured: A young visitor working the robot chameleon at The Robot Zoo. Credit: Horniman Museum and Gardens.

Notes to Editors:

- **The Robot Zoo** is based on the book titled 'The Robot Zoo', which was conceived, edited and designed by Marshall Editions of London. The exhibition was produced by Evergreen Exhibitions. For more information about Evergreen Exhibitions visit evergreenexhibitions.com.
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include a World Gallery of anthropology, music, an acclaimed aquarium, The Studio – a flexible arts and exhibition space, and a natural history gallery (closed until 2026 for redevelopment as part of [Nature + Love](#)). Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. horniman.ac.uk
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** was [Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022](#), the world's largest museum prize.
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** relies on income from ticket sales, memberships, the shop and the Café to help care for the Gardens, animals and Aquarium residents, to run events and to look after the collections. The support of our visitors and donors is hugely appreciated. horniman.ac.uk/support-us
- The **Horniman Museum and Gardens** is core-funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration – and the subsequent **Climate and Ecological Manifesto**, published in January 2020 – is a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's manifesto commitments and progress so far at horniman.ac.uk/climate.