

PRESS RELEASE

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WATERWAYS BROUGHT TO LIFE IN NEW ART EXHIBITION AT ELLESMERE PORT'S NATIONAL WATERWAYS MUSEUM

Colourful canal boats, stunning river scenes and industrial heritage are the inspiration for a wonderful collection of water-themed paintings on display at a special Waterways art exhibition staged at Ellesmere Port's award-winning National Waterways Museum this month.

Cheshire artist Diana Bernice Tackley will be showing a large selection of her landscape paintings, inspired by the nation's waterways, in a gallery at the Island Warehouse until Sunday 4 September.

Visitors to the Canal & River Trust's other Cheshire visitor attraction, the Anderton Boat Lift, near Northwich, will already be familiar with her work from a giant outdoor mural of the Victorian lift's three founding fathers, which has adorned the grounds for the last 12 years.

TV viewers might also recognise her from an appearance on the BBC 2 programme '*Show Me the Monet*' when she was one of the show's winners after her work was selected from a field of more than 3,000 artists.

As well as being a widely respected and well-known artist, she is also a talented illustrator and designer. Before changing direction, she enjoyed a successful career as a freelance international designer of wallpapers and furnishing fabrics, exhibiting in London, Paris, Lille, Frankfurt, New York, Seoul and Tokyo.

Artist Bernice commented: "It's an enormous privilege to be invited to present a solo fine art show at the National Waterways Museum. I've always been captivated by the waterways and this has inspired much of my work throughout the course of my career.

Being commissioned to create the giant mural at Anderton Boat Lift was an absolute honour. And now, the National Waterways Museum, with its picturesque Victorian locks

Canal & River Trust

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and docks, is providing the perfect setting for my new exhibition. I'm particularly enjoying meeting all the visitors here. There's such a wide range of people to talk to; from art students to boating and engineering enthusiasts, all popping in to visit me in the Island Warehouse to find out more about my work. I'm here every day (10.30am-3pm) until 4th September so please drop by and say hello!"

Chris Done, visitor services manager, added: "We are thrilled to welcome Bernice to the museum. Her Waterways Exhibition is generating a lot of interest and has proved to be quite a talking point at the Canal Town 'living history' events we're hosting every Sunday throughout the summer. It's great to see so many budding young artists getting involved in the 'Design a Narrow Boat Face' competition she's running ... she is clearly a great inspiration to many of our visitors!"

The National Waterways Museum, which features a new children's playground, café and shop, is open seven days a week, 10am – 4pm. Every Sunday throughout the season, the museum also hosts an added attraction of a heritage-themed Canal Town which includes costumed characters, working exhibits and craft stalls included in the standard ticket price.

For more information about visiting, see the museum website <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/places-to-visit/national-waterways-museum>. Adult tickets cost £9.75, concessions £8.50, children £6 and families £25. Tickets give free entrance for a year.

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Notes to Editors

The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a difference to people's lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day.

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