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.
## Gallery

### Ouch

- **Location:** Auditorium
- **Time:** 19.00–23.00 | DROP IN

For many performance artists and audiences, pain offers a regime of suffering, labour pains are dreaded but also desired. ouch is a collection of short archival films looking at pain and discomfort themselves. Join psychologist Amanda c de c Williams on a tour from limping dinosaurs and wincing crabs to grimming mice.

### IT Hurts: Art, Performance and Pain

#### Demonstration
- **Activity:** Test Your Pain Threshold
- **Time:** 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.

#### Discussion
- **Activity:** IT Hurts: Art, Performance and Pain
- **Performer:** 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.

### Welcome Café

- **Activity:** 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 chill that suits you best.

### Wellcome Bar

- **Activity:** Live Tattooing 19.00–23.00 | DROP IN

Watch close up as tattooist Blanch & Shock: The Thorn 19.00–23.00 | DROP IN

### Wellcome Café

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### Forum

#### Demonstration
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Watch close up as tattooist

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### Studio

- **Activity:** Visualising Pain
- **Time:** 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.

### Reading Room

- **Activity:** Performing Pain
- **Time:** 19.00–23.00 | DROP IN

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### Level 1

- **Location:** Williams Lounge
- **Time:** 19.00–23.00 | DROP IN

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

### Level 2

- **Location:** Reading Room
- **Time:** 19.00–23.00 | DROP IN

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.

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