

Who said science was not art?

Take an hour or two, rush to the Science Museum to see the exhibition 'Making the Modern World' and fill in your thirst for knowledge.

The exhibition displays iconic objects and inventions from 1750 to the present day. Each has had an important impact on our lives, opening a new era of industrialisation or revealing an unexpected potential.

The first one might be the most significant: it is Benjamin Vulliamy's Regulator Clock, developed around 1780. This creation has completely changed our lives. From the eighteenth century until now our concept of time has deeply evolved.

Today, time is everywhere. On our watches, our computers, mobile phones, tablets... In our cars, on our churches... It rules everything. It segments everything. Facing this clock is like trying to imagine what was life before it.

On the other side of the room, another time keeper: the first prototype of the Clock of the Long Now, by Danny Hillis. In 1999, he thought of a clock that would give the time for 10,000 years, using the energy of temperature changes and visitors steps. The monumental structure is still being built.

More than two centuries separate those incredible creations. But what they have in common is their beauty and the poesy they inspire.

The Apollo 10 capsule is one of the master pieces of the show. How to believe that three astronauts really went around the Moon in this? It seems out of a Jules Verne's book.

Some of the treasures displayed were showed for the first time at the Great Exhibition of 1851, which took place in Hyde Park. In six months, six million people - a third of Britain's entire population - wandered the aisles of the Crystal Palace. Among them, Charles Darwin, Charlotte Bronte, Charles Dickens and Lewis Carroll.

The show was organised by Prince Albert and it is good to know that the earnings collected at the time have been used to found the Victoria & Albert, the Natural History and... the Science museums we know today.

Making the Modern World is for grown-ups as much as kids. On a busy morning, they are all around. They don't bother reading the information boards but they wander the room outstretched hands and eyes wide open.

In the great room which hosts the exhibition, each object you see is more exciting than the previous one. You stand there gaping in front of the Panhard & Levassor's Motor Car. Your eyes light up as you discover the airplanes hanging from the ceiling.

The feelings are similar to what you had experienced, as a kid, when visiting a Natural History Museum: the giant blue whales floating above your head, the dinosaurs skeletons... The only word that comes to your mouth is "wow".

Whether science is your passion or not, you will like this exhibition. This is not science. It is art.

Making the Modern World: Science Museum, South Kensington, Ground Floor.

Every day 10am to 6pm. Permanent. Free.