Introducing the Collections in Dialogue commission with Leeds Art Gallery and the British Library

Written by Jill McKnight, Artist-in-Residence. I am an artist based in Leeds working across sculpture, writing, installation, drawing and print and I've been selected as the artist in residency for Collections in Dialogue, a cocommission project by the British Library and Leeds Art Gallery. The project brief particularly interested me...

Recording of the week: Graham Stuart Thomas on bringing historic flowers back to life

This week's selection comes from Chloe Lafferty, Remote Volunteer for the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project. As autumn slowly unfurls, with colder mornings and falling leaves, it is comforting to think of sunshine and new life. 'Down to Earth: An Oral History of British Horticulture' documents the lives and careers…

Recording of the week: James Baldwin at the Cambridge Union

By Steve Cleary, Lead Curator, Literary and Creative Recordings. The British Library launches a new web resource this week. It is called 'Speaking Out', and it seeks to explore the spoken word in its most forceful guise: that of the public address. Through historical archive recordings, together with new essays,...

Ken Essex - A long life with music

Ken Essex (courtesy of Liz Golding) By Jonathan Summers, Curator of Classical Music The violist Ken Essex has died aged 101. Millions unwittingly heard him playing the music to the television series 'Fawlty Towers' and it is inevitable that obituaries have highlighted his recording of the Beatles song 'Yesterday' on…

Recording of the week: Preserving the Peruvian jarija

This week's selection comes from Catherine Smith, Audio Project Cataloguer for Unlocking our Sound Heritage. Last autumn, while cataloguing the Neil Stevenson Collection made in Peru in the early seventies, I gradually started to develop a mental image of Santiago de Chocorvos, a village in the central Peruvian highlands. A...