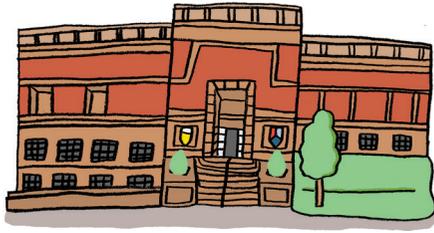


# BARBER STORY

## Family Trail

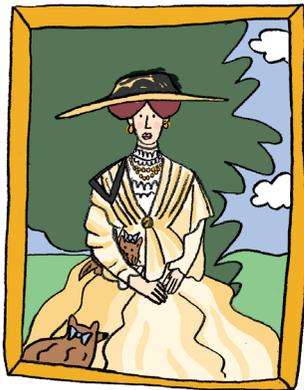


The founders of this gallery, Henry and Hattie Barber, married in 1893. Henry was from Birmingham. His father was a master jeweller in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter where the family lived and Henry grew up. Henry became a lawyer and also bought and rented out offices, shops and houses.

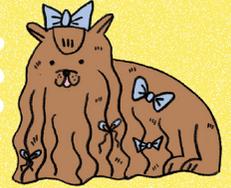
In our foyer is a large painting of Lady Hattie Barber. What does Hattie look like? Can you spot me there? Where do you think she might be sitting?



This portrait shows Hattie outside their house in Henley-on-Thames. Although they had moved away from the city, the Barbers always supported Birmingham. In 1924 they were given the title of Sir Henry and Lady Barber for their services to the city.



Welcome to the Barber Institute of Fine Arts! It's great to have you here on this Family Trail that explores our ground floor. We're going on a journey to learn who the Barber family were and how the Barber Institute came to exist. Remember to stay safe and enjoy your visit. To start our journey, let's travel back to the 1800s!



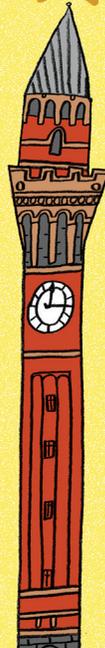
Hattie was passionate about art and music; she played piano, collected artwork and made her own sketchbooks of drawings and paintings. What are your hobbies?

The Barbers had always dreamed of a place where the people of Birmingham could come and enjoy artistic wonders. So they decided to create a new art centre for Birmingham – The Barber Institute of Fine Arts!



Architect Robert Atkinson designed the Barber building in the style of Art Deco. It's the only Grade I listed building on the campus! The building uses repeated shapes and patterns and materials like marble, stone and wood in its design.

What shapes and patterns can you see in the foyer?



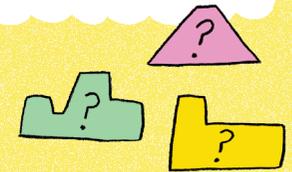
The Henry Barber Trust was formed, the building was built and artworks were collected to display in the galleries. Thomas Bodkin, the first Director of the Barber, sourced the first pieces of art to display in the building ready for its opening in 1939.

Today, the Henry Barber Trust and a dedicated team of friendly people look after the building and the artworks.

How many artworks can you count in the foyer?



If you could create your own institute, would you name it after yourself or someone else? What might you choose to collect and display?



Why not find your favourite artwork and take a photo with it to share with us at #BarberFamilyTrail.