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[Skip to content](#)

- [Ben D Gedig](#)

[« Week 4 – Home](#)

[Eadweard Muybridge – Tate Britain »](#)

# The Museum of Everything

By [admin](#) | Published: November 24, 2010



Walter Potter's two-headed lamb



Abomah the African giantess

Curated by Peter Blake, who I often saw trudging around Chiswick and Hammersmith in his trademark black corduroy suit/white button down shirt/black Doc Martens outfit.

I first saw him in Bath – sometime in 1975 I think – whilst on a day trip by train from Wrexham. That day he was crossing the road whilst carrying a Tesco shopping bag – what an interesting snippet of fact.

The so-called godfather of British Pop Art is an avid collector with self taught art, found objects and other anonymous artifacts in his collection. In the exhibition there was a large collection of postcards of circus performers mostly depicting midgets and giants, including [General Tom Thumb](#), [Machnow](#) the Russian Giant and [Abomah](#) the African Giantess. Gen. Tom Thumb's boots were on display in a glass case and they were so tiny it didn't look as if they would even fit a small child. There were also many freak show banners and other memorabilia.

There was a section dedicated to fun fair artwork from Walter Carter's Steam Fair, which is a fairground with all the rides and amusements being powered by steam engines and which travels around the south of England each year to a variety of different locations (*including leafy Chiswick, my former place of residence*).

There was a section dedicated to the miniature fairgrounds created by the retired Norfolk farmer Arthur Windley and the final part of the exhibition was a re-creation of [Walter Potter's Museum of Curiosity](#) "... a masterwork of Victorian animalia ..." according to the museum blurb. Walter Potter seems to have been a rather curious individual, dedicating his spare time to creating tableaux of small animals engaged in typically human activity, such as playing cards. There were a series of display cases in which pairs of ferrets took part in boxing matches – the whole thing was indeed extremely curious.

As usual, no photography was allowed so apart from the links above, there's more to read than there is to see in this entry.

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[Eadweard Muybridge – Tate Britain »](#)

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