Archive art will bring the past to life.

Artists from the University of Lincoln, UK, have been delving deep into two historic archive collections to source inspiration for a pair of new exhibitions, which will open to the public this summer. The Tennyson Research Centre and Media Archive for Central England (MACE) have each been a catalyst for a diverse range of artworks. The artists have been granted unique access to these valuable resources as part of a project to discover imaginative new ways of presenting historic materials.

The celebrated work of one of Britain’s most-loved poets, Alfred Lord Tennyson, has been the inspiration for a contemporary art exhibition in his home county. Tennyson was born in Somersby, Lincolnshire, in 1809, before being appointed Poet Laureate for much of Queen Victoria’s reign. The city of Lincoln is now home to the Tennyson Research Centre, which includes the most significant collection of primary materials on the Victorian poet in the world.

Located on the University of Lincoln’s Brayford Pool Campus, MACE holds a 70,000 strong collection of film, tape and digital material showcasing the history of the Midlands. In 2013 it became the first UK facility of its kind to achieve the national Archive Service Accreditation.

Accidents Need Not Happen is an exhibition inspired by MACE will take place in the University of Lincoln’s newest gallery space, Project Space Plus, from Wednesday 25th June – Friday 11th July, and in the Courtyard gallery at The Collection in Lincoln is the exhibition, Some One Had Blunder’d, inspired by the Tennyson Research Centre from Thursday 3rd – Saturday 26th July.

They will include artwork created by postgraduate students from the University of Lincoln’s MA Fine Art programme, with MA Contemporary Curatorial Practice students curating the exhibitions. Artists and academics from across the University’s School of Art and Design will also present their work.

Free admission.