PRESS RELEASE

2 November 2020

**OOH-AH CANTONA! - TATTOO UNVEILED AT NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM**

**FAN’S BACKPIECE TOOK THREE YEARS TO COMPLETE**

A football fan will unveil his stunning tattoo in front of the iconic painting that inspired it.

Manchester United fan Jamie Wright has had his entire back inked in homage to *Art of the Game.*

The painting, by Michael Browne, has been on long-term display at the National Football Museum. Created in 1997, the work is based on Piero della Francesca’s 15th Century painting *The Resurrection.*

**PHOTO/ INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY: 11am, Tuesday 3 November, National Football Museum. Meet Jamie as he unveils his tattoo in front of the giant painting. Tattooist Jonny Firth and artist Michael Browne will also attend. Media must confirm in advance: Dickie Felton 07706166787** [**dickie.felton@natonalfootballmuseum.com**](mailto:dickie.felton@natonalfootballmuseum.com)

*Art of the Game* is one of the nation’s most significant sporting paintings. Browne created it in a bar in Manchester’s Castlefield and even got Cantona to pose for it.

The renaissance-style work sees Cantona centre stage in a Roman empire of sorts. Browne said the oil on canvas draws a parallel between the resurrection of Christ and Cantona’s return from an eight month ban following his ‘kung fu kick’ at Selhurst Parky 1995 in January 1995.

Postie Jamie Wright, 36, has now had the painting permanently inked on his back. The tattoo took shape over three years and took a total of 70 hours.

Jamie said: “I’ve always loved the painting. It’s an iconic piece of art that is related to the club during one of their most successful periods. I like tattoos and I just wanted something a bit different. This certainly fits that bill.”

**Ends**

**Notes to editors:**

**NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM:**

The National Football Museum is a registered charity. It was established and its collection acquired thanks to £9.3m investment by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Its vision is to become a leading national museum by 2022, exploring why football is the game of our lives.  The museum’s social purpose is to provide equal opportunity for all to enjoy football culture.