



Trump in court, the Guardian's smoking gun and art by the sea

As we went to press, Donald Trump was in New York preparing to step inside the Manhattan court where he will be fingerprinted and face the first criminal charges ever brought against a former US president. For our big story, Washington bureau chief David Smith examines how Trump has sought to play this unprecedented event to his best political advantage and ramp up support and funds for his 2024 presidential bid. And we look back at the how adult film star Stormy Daniels's life entangled itself with Trump, opening up an avenue that gave prosecutor Alvin Bragg a route towards the indictment. **The big story** [Page 10](#) →

We return to Cotton Capital, the Guardian's investigation into its founders' links to the slave trade with Cassandra Gooptar's research into the businessmen who backed John Edward Taylor to found the paper. She explains how deep dives into archives, online databases and ancestry records produced the "smoking gun" that connected nine of the men to enslavers and enslaved people in plantations in the US and Jamaica. And to bring story into the present, Lanre Bakare is in Manchester to find a city where historical memory has left the Black faces off its story of industrial wealth and political radicalism. **Connections unwound** [Page 33](#) →

Culture is on the move with a trip to Margate on England's south coast to find out why Tracey Emin has set up an art school, finds a German film-maker in the seaside town of Cromer and then heads to Iceland to explore the country's creative mix of classical and popular musical traditions. **Where art meets life** [Page 51](#) →



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On the cover
The stripes on the American flag provided a jumping-off point to visualise how the legal walls are fast closing in on Donald Trump, with the case brought by prosecutor Alvin Bragg over payments to adult film star Stormy Daniels. The fingerprints reference the flag's stars.
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