



WADDESDON
Rothschild Collections

CONTEMPORARY AT WADDESDON
From 17 April 2015

JOANA VASCONCELOS – *LAFITE*



Joana Vasconcelos, Lafite, 2015; Waddesdon, The Rothschild Collection (Rothschild Family Trusts); acc. no. 162.2014 © Joana Vasconcelos. Photo: Mike Fear © The National Trust, Waddesdon Manor

This spring, Waddesdon unveiled a major new acquisition by The Rothschild Foundation. *Lafite*, a pair of monumental sculptures of Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos's *Candlesticks* series. Each vertical structure is 7 metres tall and composed of 574 glass wine bottles set on a steel armature and lit from within with high density LEDs. The siting on the North Front is particularly appropriate as the bottles originate from Château Lafite Rothschild, one of the two great Rothschild vineyards in Bordeaux, and the west sculpture stands opposite the door to the Wine Cellars beneath the house.

Joana Vasconcelos (b.1971) lives and works in Lisbon. She has exhibited regularly since the mid-1990s. After her participation in the 51st International Art Exhibition– *la Biennale di Venezia* in 2005, her work became known internationally. Recent solo exhibitions include at the Château de Versailles in 2012, where she was the first woman and the youngest artist ever to exhibit work, becoming the most visited exhibition in Paris in the last 50 years; and, in 2014, at

the Manchester City Art Gallery. Her work is in a number of public and private collections. She aims to re-present and subvert every-day objects, often manipulating notions of scale and form. She is particularly interested in the role of women in contemporary society, and objects associated with them, and also in the relationship between public and private space. In their reuse of objects as ubiquitous as wine bottles, these giant objects merge the legacies of the readymade, *nouveau realism* and post-modernism. The *Candlesticks* series is a nucleus of works that alludes to Duchamp's first ready-made – *Porte-Bouteilles*, 1914 – and reports to the pleasures of the table and to the processes of national identity associated with gastronomy. The first work of the series – *Message in a Bottle*, 2006 – was presented in Japan and was made of sake bottles. The latest work of this series – *Blue Champagne*, 2012 – was conceived with champagne bottles for the gardens of the *Château du Versailles*.

At Waddesdon, a house famous for hospitality from its creation to the present day, the candlesticks are a reminder of the pleasures of the table, and the value of domesticity, as well as linking the collections inside the house with the outside world. They also underline the convivial role wine plays throughout the world and the connections of the Rothschild family to the world of wine, not only to Château Lafite Rothschild, but also Château Mouton Rothschild. The acquisition of *Lafite* heralds a Year of Wine at Waddesdon, with a range of special events.

Lafite join an increasingly significant collection of contemporary sculpture at the Manor, which includes work by Stephen Cox, Xavier Veilhan, Michael Craig-Martin, Richard Long, Angus Fairhurst and Sarah Lucas.

-Ends

Vicky Darby, Press Officer at Waddesdon Manor
01296 653231 vicky.darby@nationaltrust.org.uk

Visitor information and opening times: www.waddesdon.org.uk
Waddesdon Manor, Waddesdon, Near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP18 0JH
