



WADDESDON
Rothschild Collections

CONTEMPORARY AT WADDESDON
June – October 2015

SIMON PERITON – *RESISTANCE IS FERTILE*



Simon Periton, Charger ©The Artist, courtesy Sadie Coles HQ, London

In our continuing programme of installations by internationally recognized contemporary artists, Simon Periton will create a pair of sculptures for the Parterre. Periton was among the artists included in *Ham's Garden of Reason*, a Trust New Art initiative at Ham House from 28 April to 16 September 2012 and has been appointed as site-wide artist for the University of Oxford's Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.

The two designs, *Anarchy Ball* and *Scalpel*, are giant three-dimensional carpet-bedding sculptures, which are a homage to the 19th century creations pioneered by Alice de Rothschild, one of the creators of Waddesdon, but which introduce a degree of anarchy into the Parterre, the play on the word's 17th century use to describe the 'pit' of a theatre.

Drawing on the decorative aspects of Waddesdon, and opening up the subversive potentials of order and colour, the two pieces complement Periton's previous work, which often revolves around the concept of the 'decorative' and its underlying meanings. Decoration and the decorative surface have variously informed his intricate cut paper sculptures, works in spray-paint on glass, and large-scale architectural commissions in outdoor and indoor contexts. Combining resonances of *fin de siècle* aestheticism, punk iconography and kitsch, Periton's sensuous visual language succeeds in being simultaneously playful and pensive. Beneath his compositions' intricate surfaces, there is often a rich and murky underworld to be explored.

Simon Periton is represented by Sadie Coles HQ.

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Visitor information and opening times: www.waddesdon.org.uk
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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Waddesdon Manor was built from 1874 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to display his outstanding collection of art treasures and to entertain the fashionable world. It combines the highest quality 18th-century French decorative arts, magnificent English portraits and Dutch Old Master paintings with one of the finest Victorian gardens in Britain, famous for its Parterre and ornate working Aviary. The house was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1957 and is now managed by a family charitable trust, The Rothschild Foundation, under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild.
2. Waddesdon is one of the most visited historic houses among England's National Trust properties. The collections are a reflection of the passions of the Rothschilds who created and have cared for Waddesdon, from Ferdinand de Rothschild, who built the Manor in the late 19th century, to Jacob, the present Lord Rothschild.
3. In recent years, Waddesdon has hosted a vibrant and varied exhibitions programme which both reflects and complements the collections, history of the house and the Rothschild family. Recent highlights include *Predators and Prey: A Roman mosaic from Lod, Israel* (in partnership with the Israel Antiquities Authority and the British Museum), *Fame and Friendship: Pope, Roubiliac and the Portrait Bust in 18th-Century Britain* (in partnership with the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven), and *Waddesdon at War* (all 2014); *Sacred Stitches: Ecclesiastical Textiles in the Rothschild Collection at Waddesdon Manor* (2013); *Taking Time: Chardin's Boy Building a House of Cards and Other Paintings* (2012); *Playing, Learning, Flirting: French 18th-Century Board Games* (2012) and *Fantasy from the Fire: Sixteenth-Century Maiolica in the Waddesdon Collection* (2011-2013). The developing programme of contemporary art has encouraged artist responses to the historic collections and interiors as well as to the gardens at Waddesdon. In 2012, **Edmund de Waal** made new works for the historic ground floor rooms, including two large-scale vitrines, which have been acquired by The Rothschild Foundation for Windmill Hill. In 2013, Catalan artist **Joan Sallas** created *Folded Beauty: Masterpieces in Linen*, reviving designs for magnificent Baroque table centrepieces, but including his own contemporary versions. The 2013 carpet bedding and a contemporary wild flower planting scheme were designed by artist **Philippa Lawrence**, inspired by the collection of historic lace and textiles at Waddesdon, and in 2014 we worked with artist **Jan Dunning** on a trail inspired by the experiences of evacuee children and a collaboration with contemporary lace-makers, *Imagine...Lace at Waddesdon*.
4. Waddesdon is pleased to support *Trust New Art*, a collaboration between Arts Council England and the National Trust aimed at promoting contemporary arts and crafts in historic properties. Arts Council England and the National Trust believe that placing high quality and innovative contemporary art within historic settings can inspire artists and audiences and encourage new ways of looking at the work and the world.



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5. The Coach House opened as a new venue for contemporary art exhibitions in the grounds of the Manor in April 2009 with a retrospective exhibition on the work of **Angus Fairhurst**, a collaboration with Arnolfini, Bristol, and in 2010 showed *Glass Experiences*, an exhibition of contemporary chandeliers by Brazilian designers, the **Campana brothers** and the installation of **Jeff Koons' Cracked Egg (Blue)** in the Conservatory. Two of the Campanas' light works, *Broken Dreams* are permanently installed at Windmill Hill – Waddesdon's centre for archival research and storage. In 2011 the Coach House showed **Andy Warhol's Ten Portraits of Jews of the Twentieth Century** and *Windmill Hill: Architecture, Archives and Art*, which explored the design and creation of the new building by **Stephen Marshall Architects**. In 2012 the Coach House was used to display contemporary sculpture included in **Christie's House of Cards** and, in 2013, hosted a light installation, *Cantus Arcticus*, by **Bruce Munro**, part of his three-year artist residency. Visitors can also see sculpture in the grounds of the house by **Stephen Cox** and **Xavier Veilhan**, a recent acquisition by The Rothschild Foundation. Veilhan (b. 1963) is a French artist who lives and works in Paris. His work includes photography, sculpture, film, painting, and installation art. There is also a growing collection of contemporary art at Windmill Hill, the home of the Archive and the offices of The Rothschild Foundation on the Waddesdon Estate, which includes work by **Anish Kapoor, Richard Long, Sarah Lucas, Angus Fairhurst, Michael Craig-Martin** and, most recently, **Tony Bevan**. Contemporary works in the house include paintings by **Lucian Freud** and **David Hockney**, as well as a specially commissioned contemporary chandelier by the German lighting designer **Ingo Maurer**.
6. Waddesdon also works with design students from the **Royal College of Art** to develop innovative product for Waddesdon's shop. Full details on the Waddesdon website.