

Waddesdon Manor: Exhibition Highlights for 2014

Waddesdon Manor is proud to present a major exhibition for 2014, which brings a global perspective to the Manor

Predators and Prey: A Roman Mosaic from Lod, Israel

5 June to 2 November 2014

A rare Roman mosaic pavement excavated in Israel forms the centrepiece of this special exhibition held in the Stables **Coach House** at Waddesdon Manor.

In 1996 a splendid series of Roman mosaic floors was accidentally discovered during local road works in Lod, just outside Tel Aviv in Israel (Lydda in the Ancient World). Finally excavated in 2009 by the Israel Antiquities Authority, the largest and most elaborate of these will be displayed at Waddesdon Manor in 2014, having toured a number of museums in the US and Europe including the Metropolitan Museum, New York, the Field Museum, Chicago and the Louvre. It is currently on display at the Altes Museum in Berlin.

The site of Lod has been consistently occupied since antiquity, with limited archaeological evidence or activity. As a result, the discovery of the Lod mosaic is all the more exceptional not only giving an insight into the importance of the ancient city, but also hinting at the Roman treasures which may still remain hidden.

Contemporary and contextual objects from the Middle East, kindly lent by the British Museum, will be displayed alongside material from Lod to illuminate its wider background. Part of the exhibition will highlight the historical involvement of the Rothschild family in archaeological projects in the region using material from the archive and collections at Waddesdon. A programme of activities and events will accompany this exciting exhibition.

The Lod Mosaic is on loan from the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Shelby White and Leon Levy Lod Mosaic Centre.



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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 1877 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, a collector of contemporary art
3. 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 displayed contemporary sculpture included in Christie's **House of Cards**. Visitors can also see sculpture in the grounds of the house by **Stephen Cox** and **Xavier Veilhan**, the latest 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** and **Michael Craig-Martin**. 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**.

4. Waddesdon also works with design students from the **Royal College of Art** and art students from the **Ruskin School of Art** to develop innovative product for Waddesdon's shop. Full details on the Waddesdon website.