



WADDESDON
Rothschild Collections



Michael Eden: Form & Transform

Coach House Gallery, Waddesdon Manor
25 May – 21 October 2018

For his first major solo exhibition artist Michael Eden has produced a series of technologically groundbreaking works that reinterpret historical objects in Waddesdon Manor's collections.

Using techniques more often employed by Formula 1 engineers, Eden has created more than 20 brand new works of art inspired by pieces he discovered at Waddesdon (which is itself inspired by a French Renaissance château), particularly the Sèvres porcelain. These striking new versions of vases, tureens and other pieces from the collection are totally unique and have never been exhibited before. Each individual object took weeks to create - all are familiar, and yet shockingly new.

Eschewing traditional material and methods, Eden, a trained potter has instead employed cutting-edge technology and manufacturing processes – such as 3D scanning, digital manipulation and printing – to explore and demonstrate how resins can be transformed from one form into another. He says: *“Three-dimensional printing has given me the freedom to create works of art that would be impossible with the wheel and clay – I like to think this is the technology Josiah Wedgwood would have been exploring and the type of work he would have been producing if he had been alive today.”*

In his role as artist-in-residence, Eden described his first visit to Waddesdon as *“An awe-inspiring experience, every room is a stage set of magnificent furniture, ceramics, textiles and paintings. Each has a story to tell.”*

Theatrically displayed in the Coach House Gallery, visitors can explore works such as his *Twisted Double-Louis Tureen* and *Double-Louis Tureen*, both made by Additive Layer Manufacturing from nylon, with blue and green soft mineral coating and gold leaf details plus imagery created with scanners, microscopy and Computer-Aided Design (CAD). *Icons* features elements of Nefertiti, Michelangelo's *David*, Discobolus of Myron, *Mona Lisa*, Rodin's *Thinker* and *Venus de Milo* in a single object.

The presentation of Eden's new work is influenced by Alice de Rothschild (1847-1922), who inherited Waddesdon from her brother Ferdinand in 1898, and her approach to conservation. Known as 'Miss Alice's rules', she introduced a strict programme of managing light levels and covering sculpture and furniture during the winter months – much of which is still followed today.

In *Form & Transform*, Eden has taken this seasonal cycle and turned it into a mysterious, staged performance, in which the performers (objects from the collections) are frozen in time, preserved during the winter months awaiting the grand unveiling of spring. Thus, the objects in *Form & Transform* are presented on pieces of antique furniture from the Waddesdon collection, some wrapped in cotton covers.

The exhibition moves through five 'rooms', each based on a distinct theme exploring the Manor's rich history. Visitors will be able to explore the relationship between different periods of design and architectural style, while also experiencing how Eden drew inspiration from the traditions of using certain materials to imitate others.

Form & Transform is presented in association with Adrian Sassoon, London.

Mia Jackson, Waddesdon's Curator of Decorative Art, says: "*Michael's work is utterly fascinating. Though he has responded to historical works that demonstrate incredible artistry and craftsmanship, what he has created - with the aid of cutting edge machinery and technology – would be physically impossible for his predecessors. He has looked at some of the finest pieces in our collection and reimaged how they could be made using 21st century materials and processes. Eden sees other technologies as ideal ways to achieve his goals – just as engineers and designers working in Formula One, the aerospace industry and even in yacht racing are exploring new ways of working with highly technological materials.*"

Adrian Sassoon, who represents Eden, says: "Thanks to spending time at Waddesdon Manor, Michael Eden has incorporated an abundance of story-telling in the details of the sculptures he has made. Taking a closer look at the shapes and structures in this series of work, one can see where Eden's stories are embedded. The expansive richness of the collections at Waddesdon have inspired and delighted Michael, and he has translated this into three dimensions – a sculptural notebook of spending time in such a special place."

In addition, as artist-in-residence, Michael Eden has been invited to design the carpet bedding for Waddesdon's annual Parterre display in the garden. His treatment, a pixelated interpretation of the Manor's south facade, connects this, the high point of the formal Victorian garden, with the exhibition through his unconventional application of digital technology.

For more information, visit www.waddesdon.org.uk/michael-eden, like WaddesonManor on Facebook, follow @WaddesdonManor on Twitter and waddesdonmanor_nt on Instagram.

Michael Eden: Form & Transform

Open 11am-5pm, Wed-Sun, 25 May-21 October 2018

Free with grounds admission: Adult: £12, Child: £6, Family: £30

Free for National Trust, RHS and Art Fund members and Under-5s

Curator-led, free exhibition tours will take place on Saturday 23 June, 12.30pm and Friday 7 September, 12.30pm. Advance booking is recommended www.waddesdon.org.uk/whats-on

Exploring the art of the impossible – Michael Eden in conversation with curator Mia Jackson 6pm Monday 2 July at Spencer House, St James's Place, London SW1A 1NR, bookings 020 7514 1958

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Michael Eden was born in Blackburn, UK in 1955. He trained at Blackburn College of Technology & Design (1972-1974), Leeds Polytechnic (1974-1975) and Royal College of Art, London (2006-2008). Between 1981 and 2006 he made functional slipware for Victoria & Michael Eden Pottery. Since 2007 he has used digital manufacturing to create works of art. Eden is represented by Adrian Sassoon, London.

Michael Eden has worked in collaboration with Scan the World, digitally scanning objects from Waddesdon's collections. Scan the World is a social platform with a mission to archive objects of cultural significance using 3D technologies.

Waddesdon Manor was built at the end of the 19th century by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the style of a French early 16th-century château. Baron Ferdinand was an inspired collector and the house was designed to showcase his exceptional collection of French 18th-century furniture, Sèvres porcelain, English portraits and other decorative arts. When Ferdinand died in 1898 he left Waddesdon to his sister, Alice. Upon her death the house passed to her great-nephew, James de Rothschild, who inherited a substantial part of his father Baron Edmond's great collection. In 1957, in order to ensure its future in perpetuity, Waddesdon was bequeathed to the National Trust. The Rothschild family continues to run Waddesdon through a family charitable trust under the chairmanship of Lord Rothschild.

More at <https://waddesdon.org.uk/about-us/press/notes-for-editors/>

IMAGES

A Pair of Elephant Vases, 2018 Unique objects made by Additive Layer Manufacturing from a high-quality nylon material with a soft mineral coating Height 29cm, Width 20.5cm, Depth 12.5cm.

Icons (detail), 2018 Unique object made by Additive Layer Manufacturing from a high-quality nylon material with a soft mineral coating Height 30cm, Width 19cm, Depth 14cm.

High resolution images for press use can be downloaded

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1r180fptaa41zzd/AACNj0HLZ95d67Mo2zpaTPLCa?dl=0>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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