



WADDESDON
Rothschild Collections

Waddesdon Manor announces 2019 programme

A forgotten master of still life, the treasures of the Rothschilds, the beauty of print and reframing Madame de Pompadour

From the first major exhibition of Eliot Hodgkin's work for almost thirty years and the creation of a new display showcasing the personal treasures of the Rothschild family to an exploration of the classic art book to the 3D recreation of a painting of Madame de Pompadour, there is plenty to see and enjoy at Waddesdon Manor during 2019.

Brought to life: Eliot Hodgkin Rediscovered

25 May to 20 October 2019

Coach House Gallery

This exhibition turns the spotlight on Eliot Hodgkin, a British artist who deserves to be much more widely celebrated. Hodgkin, who died in 1987, is best known as a painter of still life subjects, beautifully executed in extraordinary detail, he used the technique of oil and egg tempera.



His depictions of everyday objects – such as lemons, radishes, dead leaves and feathers – are much prized by collectors, but less well known are his haunting views of bomb-sites in London after World War II. This revelatory exhibition – mounted in close collaboration with the Hodgkin family and curated by Adrian Eeles – captures the full range of Hodgkin's work, together with other facets of his career as an artist which have never been fully explored. This is the first Hodgkin show since 1990 and will feature many works that have never been seen in public before.

A Rothschild Treasury

Opens 25 May 2019

The Manor

Waddesdon Manor was built at the end of the 19th century by inspired collector Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, and has been managed by successive generations of Rothschilds ever since. 2019 marks the creation of a new permanent display which celebrates the Waddesdon Rothschilds as collectors of extraordinary objects made from rare and precious materials. Densely displayed and beautifully lit, this new exhibit will offer an intense and absorbing opportunity to enjoy and understand objects made from silver, silver-gilt, rock crystal, amber, ivory and enamel including some spectacular jewellery and intricate clocks, all of which have a profound significance to the family.



Reading Art: the fine art book in the age of reproduction

Opens 25 May 2019

The Manor

The book has long been an important tool in the promotion and proliferation of the arts. From luxuriously-bound prints after Old Masters designed to appeal to collectors to the albums used by architects, artists and craftsmen, this exhibition of around 15 French and English volumes, dating from the 17th- to the 19th-century, will explore the impact of the book in celebrating and promoting the arts. It also probes the relationships between artists, printmakers and publishers and the role these books played in the establishment of art history as a discipline. Many of the books will be on display for the very first time.

Highlights range from Louis XIV's *Cabinet du Roi* series of official prints of his collections and royal palaces to early *catalogue raisonnés* for artists such as Jean-Antoine Watteau, William Hogarth and Joshua Reynolds. Examples of art historical analysis and critique include Horace Walpole's *Anecdotes of Painting in England* (1762) and William Beckford's *Biographical memoirs of extraordinary painters* (1780).



Framing Madame de Pompadour - A collaboration with Factum Arte

Opens 27 March 2019

The Manor

François Boucher's famous portrait of *Madame de Pompadour* (1756), now one of the most prized paintings on display at the Alte Pinakothek in Munich (on permanent loan from the HypoVereinsbank, Member of UniCredit), was once owned by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild. During the late 19th-century, the painting and its original 18th-century frame were separated, for reasons which remain unclear. Whilst the painting itself was bequeathed to one of Ferdinand's brothers, the impressive frame (complete with cartouche) today remains at Waddesdon. Recent conservation and analysis have revealed that the frame was reduced to fit Boucher's portrait and decorative elements matching the flowers in Madame de Pompadour's dress were added in the late 19th-century, possibly by Baron Ferdinand.

Thanks to a collaboration with Factum Arte, specialists in high-resolution digital scanning technology, and with the support of the Alte Pinakothek, this display places a replica of the portrait back in Baron Ferdinand's frame. This marriage of traditional conservation and restoration techniques with the most advanced 3D digital reproduction technology shows the painting as it would have been known, and explores the role that new technologies can play in our understanding of great works of art.

Pippa Shirley, Head of Collections and Gardens at Waddesdon says: "As always at Waddesdon, it's a rich and varied programme with something to intrigue everyone. *Eliot Hodgkin Rediscovered* represents a wonderful opportunity to either reconnect with an artist who is not as well-known as he deserves to be, or encounter his beautiful work for the first time. *Reading Art* encourages us to think about how we experience art, reflect on and value it. *The Rothschild Treasury* brings us back to what Waddesdon is all about – the exceptional collections formed by the family – through objects many of which have never been seen in public before, and which were and are of great family significance, whilst our collaboration with Factum Arte, supported by the Alte Pinakothek, illustrates how embracing new technology allows us engage with and present historic collections in entirely contemporary ways and for new audiences."

Looking ahead to 2020

Joana Vasconcelos: Wedding Cake

From Ancient Rome where bread was broken over the bride's head to bring good fortune to the couple, to contemporary confections that are often a sign of celebration and social status, the history of the wedding cake is long and varied, full of symbolism and tradition.

Wedding Cake is a major new commission from Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos, a 10.5m high, ceramic sculptural pavilion in the form of a wedding cake. Part sculpture, part architectural garden folly, it is an extraordinary structure within which people can have a blessing, tea ceremony or wine tasting or their own wedding photo shoot. The work celebrates historic wedding cakes and is inspired by the Baroque buildings and ceramic traditions of Lisbon, where Vasconcelos lives and works, as well as the landscape of Waddesdon and the long European history of placing fanciful buildings in gardens and landscapes. At Waddesdon it will be set in the re-designed Rose Garden.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

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/>

For more information on Waddesdon Manor and its exhibitions, visit www.waddesdon.org.uk, like WaddesdonManor on Facebook, follow @WaddesdonManor on Twitter and waddesdonmanor_nt on Instagram.

IMAGES

High resolution images for press use can be downloaded [HERE](#)

Eliot Hodgkin, *One Lemon Quartered* ©The Estate of Eliot Hodgkin

Johann Heinrich Köhler, *Orpheus and the animals*, c. 1720; Waddesdon, The Rothschild Collection (Rothschild Family Trust); Photo Mike Fear © The National Trust, Waddesdon Manor

Bandello, *La Prima Parte de le Novelle*, 1740, Waddesdon (National Trust) Bequest of James de Rothschild, 1957 acc no: 911. Photo: Waddesdon Image Library, Mike Fear

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