



Anish Kapoor, *Into Yourself, Fall*

25 March to 5 April 2020

Virtual Reality exhibition at Windmill Hill Archive, Waddesdon, Bucks

An exciting new collaboration between Acute Art and Waddesdon Manor will exhibit the first virtual reality artwork by the renowned British artist, Anish Kapoor in the dramatic setting of the Windmill Hill Archive on the Waddesdon estate.

Into Yourself, Fall (2018) takes users on a journey through the human body, experiencing the sensation of falling into yourself. The work seeks to simulate vertigo, depicting a labyrinth of the inner workings of the self.

Starting the journey in a forest scene, in a clearing surrounded by trees, users encounter a large black void in the ground. Users then travel through a complex series of tunnels with walls that appear to be made of sinewy flesh and muscle. With this work, Kapoor invites users to experience a surreal sensation of exploring the unknown, with viewers losing themselves in another realm.

Working with Acute Art to design this custom-made virtual space, Kapoor's piece was developed around the idea of creating a physical experience via a virtual journey, testing the limits of what is possible with technology. *Into Yourself, Fall* plays with the introspective experience of wearing the headset, creating a disorientating sensation that is experienced physically by the viewer.

Kapoor's use of virtual reality enables him to explore materiality in a virtual realm, drawing on his highly influential sculptural practice to evoke both tactility and transcendence. With a soundtrack created by the artist's son Ishan Kapoor, *Into Yourself, Fall* directly transports the viewer into the artist's own visceral virtual reality.

Lord Rothschild says, *'Waddesdon and the Rothschild Foundation are delighted to be working with Acute Art in showing this innovative artwork, by one of the most exciting and distinguished artists working in Britain today. Kapoor has always experimented with new forms and techniques so it is no surprise that he should be in the vanguard as a user of immersive, interactive technologies that create so much potential for art in the digital world. In recent years, we have begun to focus increasingly on the impact of new technology on art and heritage, a long-standing interest at Waddesdon where we want to look forward as well as celebrating Waddesdon's history and traditions. This exhibition will offer our visitors something new and we hope to challenge some of their assumptions about historic houses with the presentation of this piece.'*

It is also particularly pleasing and relevant that the room in which the exhibition takes place, at Windmill Hill, is dominated by one of Kapoor's iconic creations, one of his faceted mirrored sculptures (*Untitled*, 2009), giving a rare opportunity to enjoy work by this major artist both virtually and in reality.

Waddesdon and digital art and technology

Waddesdon has always been innovative in its use of emerging technologies, from its creation by Baron Ferdinand from 1874, as a means of ensuring that a stay there was as luxurious and comfortable as possible. The house was amongst the first to be electrified, it had a lift installed as early as 1890, and it had its own gasworks and state-of-the-art heating systems. Today, under the leadership of Lord Rothschild, the Rothschild Foundation has supported and encouraged the presentation of digital art at Waddesdon.

In recent years, this has included work by light artist Bruce Munro during a four-year residency; a display of *Bitfall* by Julius Popp, which projected words harvested randomly from the internet on an illuminated screen of falling water and two collaborations with Factum Foundation exploring 3D scanning, imaging and printing. The first of these investigated 3D portraiture, creating images of visitors through photogrammetry in real time and then 3D printing the resulting images as portrait busts. The recent exhibition *Madame de Pompadour in the Frame*, explored the ways in which scanning and 3D printing can contribute to the display, recording and preservation of works of art through a facsimile, allowing the public to see and judge the 18th-century original and facsimile side by side. Waddesdon has also worked with contemporary artists who are exploring the potential of new technologies, including Michael Eden, who in 2017 created new, 3D printed pieces inspired by the collections pushing the boundaries of this practice in ceramics.

[Images and credit sheet are available to download here](#)

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Listings details:

Anish Kapoor, *Into Yourself, Fall*

Virtual Reality experience

Windmill Hill Archive, Silk Street, Waddesdon, Bucks HP18 0JZ

25 March – 5 April 2020, open 11am-4pm Wednesday to Sunday

Tickets £15. www.waddesdon.org.uk/kapoor

About Anish Kapoor

Anish Kapoor, CBE, RA, was born in Mumbai, India in 1954. He first gained recognition in the 1980s for his large-scale, biomorphic and geometric sculptures, created from materials including stone, pigment and resin. By the 1990s, his practice had evolved to incorporate forms that appeared to stretch, recede and distort the space around them. The approach informed major public commissions including Chicago's *Cloud Gate* (2004) (colloquially known as 'the Bean') and *Sky Mirror* (2006), exhibited at the Rockefeller Center in New York City in 2006. Red pigment features regularly in his output, evoking earth, blood and the body.

Kapoor has been the subject of solo exhibitions at institutions including CAFA Art Museum / Imperial Ancestral Temple, Beijing (2019); Serralves, Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Porto, Portugal (2018); Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome (2016), Château de Versailles, France (2015); the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (2012), and the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2009)). His public commissions in the UK include *Orbit* (2012), a permanent artwork for London's Olympic Park, and *Temenos* (2010), in Middlesbrough. Kapoor represented Britain in the 44th Venice Biennale in 1990, where he was the recipient of the Premio Duemila Prize. In 1991, he received the Turner Prize and, in 2002, received the Unilever Commission for the Turbine Hall at Tate Modern. Kapoor has lived and worked in London since the early 1970s, where he studied at Chelsea School of Art and Design.

About Acute Art

Directed by Daniel Birnbaum, Acute Art collaborates with the world's most compelling contemporary artists, providing access to cutting-edge technologies that allow them to translate their creative vision into digital mediums – including virtual, augmented and mixed realities. A curatorial laboratory and research hub, Acute Art is committed to finding exciting ways to take digital artwork to the public, both physically, through exhibitions, and as a curated offer on the Acute Art website and free app.

Since 2017, Acute Art has collaborated with artists including [Marina Abramović](#), [Olafur Eliasson](#), [Jeff Koons](#), [Anish Kapoor](#), [Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg](#), [Christo & Jeanne-Claude](#) and [Antony Gormley](#), as well as other talented and award-winning artists. Available through their website and app, the works can also be downloaded via the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#), as well as [Steam](#) and [HTC Viveport](#).

Throughout 2020 Koo Jeong A's geo-located AR piece *density* is presented at Waddesdon by Acute Art and viewable using the Acute Art app.

About Waddesdon Manor

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 leadership 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.