



2024–2025 at The Wallace Collection

The Wallace Collection has announced two major exhibitions for the next two years, from the history of the Sikh Empire to the 65th birthday celebrations of a national treasure along the way. Drawing on different aspects of the museum's collection and history, the two exhibitions make new connections and encourage different perspectives on the Collection.

Ranjit Singh: Sikh, Warrior, King

10 April – 20 October 2024

In 2024, the Wallace Collection will present *Ranjit Singh: Sikh, Warrior, King*, an exhibition that will explore the personality of the great Sikh leader Ranjit Singh (1780–1839), who set about conquering the Punjab, a region in Northern India that today encompasses Pakistan, during a period stricken by anarchy after decades of Afghan invasions.

Gifted with an indomitable sense of destiny, Ranjit Singh would emerge as the region's undisputed Maharaja by the beginning of the 19th-century. His meteoric rise to power brought about a short-lived, but hugely influential, Sikh Empire that would inextricably impact the future of the Indian subcontinent.

Through a stunning array of over 100 exquisite artworks, including glittering jewellery and weaponry from the Sikh Empire drawn from major private and public collections, visitors will experience how Ranjit Singh brought about a golden age in the region where trade boomed, the arts flourished, and a formidable army was developed.

Sikh arms and armour from the Wallace Collection will feature prominently, as the exhibition is the first time that the museum has been able to contextualise its very fine Sikh works of art alongside other Sikh artworks.

The exhibition will also showcase important historic objects from Ranjit Singh's court, courtiers and family members, including those personally owned by the Maharaja and the most famous of his thirty 'official' wives, Maharani Jind Kaur.

Grayson Perry: Delusions of Grandeur **Spring 2025**

To celebrate his 65th birthday, British artist Sir Grayson Perry (b.1960) has chosen to explore some of the recurrent themes and inspirations for his art with the Wallace Collection.

The Wallace Collection is full of creative inspiration for Grayson Perry. His childhood love of François Boucher's *Portrait of Madame de Pompadour* (1759) is often discussed by the artist, but many other pieces in the Collection have inspired him over his lifetime, including the Collection's superb group of English miniatures and an early 18th-century bronze of Mezzetin, soulfully strumming his guitar. These objects and more will find themselves echoed in Perry's new works, which will playfully explore themes including the gendering of decoration, perfection versus authenticity, and the exquisite and the pretty versus the brutality and pomp of masculinity.

Perry works across various media, exploiting each to suit his message. Therefore his works in the exhibition – which he will curate himself – will include ceramics, sculpture, textile and painting, complementing the diversity and variety of objects found at the Wallace Collection.

This landmark birthday exhibition will also be a meditation and introspection for Perry. Is he now at the height of his powers? What does it mean to move from an 'outsider' artist to a national treasure, and how does that influence his work? What is craftsmanship in the age of digital technology, and what will his legacy be?

The unique juxtaposition of Grayson Perry's works beside objects from the Collection will invite audiences to participate in the exhibition: to take an active role as they compare, contrast and draw their own conclusions about inspiration and creativity.

Director of the Wallace Collection, Dr Xavier Bray said *"It is with great pleasure that we announce our programme of exhibitions for the next two years. Following the success of Inspiring Walt Disney and Portraits of Dogs, our ambition is to continue to attract new audiences to the Wallace Collection through an engaging exhibition programme. We hope that our shows over the next few years will surprise and intrigue visitors, exploring new connections across our works of art and encouraging new perspectives on the Collection."*

NOTES FOR EDITORS

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- Kehar Singh, *Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1799–1839) with his favourite, Raja Hira Singh (1816–1844), the cup-bearer, around 1835-1838* © Toor Collection
- Portrait of Grayson Perry. Photo © Chris McAndrew

About the Wallace Collection

As one of Britain's preeminent cultural institutions, the Wallace Collection is home to one of the most significant ensembles of fine and decorative arts in the world. Highlights include oil paintings from the 14th to the late 19th-centuries by artists such as Titian, Velázquez, Rubens and Van Dyck; princely arms and armour; and one of the finest

collections of 18th-century French paintings and decorative arts. Visitors can also enjoy superb medieval and Renaissance objects, including Limoges enamel, maiolica, glass and bronzes. Displayed at Hertford House, former home to Sir Richard and Lady Wallace, this outstanding collection is displayed in a manner designed to evoke the lives and tastes of its founders, creating a special ambiance that remains an essential part of its charm. www.wallacecollection.org. The Wallace Collection is open daily, 10.00–17.00.

Instagram: @wallacemuseum / Facebook: @wallacecollection / Twitter: @WallaceMuseum / YouTube: TheWallacecollection

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES

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