

THE WALLACE COLLECTION TO REDISPLAY ONE OF ONLY THREE COMPLETE MEDIEVAL EQUESTRIAN ARMOURS IN THE WORLD

For the first time in over 100 years, this fifteenth-century masterpiece will be redisplayed for a limited time.



Equestrian armour, South German, c.1480 © The Trustees of the Wallace Collection

The Wallace Collection will be redisplaying one of its most significant armours to boost visitor numbers, it has been announced today (15 October 2020).

Opening to the public on the 24th of October, visitors will be able to see one the Collection's exceptionally rare armours quite literally in a new light. Taking pride of place in the heart of the Hertford House, the fifteenth-century armour for man and horse, will be on show as part of a reimagining of the Wallace Collection's central courtyard. This historic redisplay will coincide with the reopening of the museum's restaurant and café on the same day, giving visitors a unique experience of an important work of art now located under the glass-roofed central atrium completed in 2000 by Rick Mather Architects.

The armour will be disassembled, moved and reassembled by specialist curators and conservators from the Wallace Collection team, in the centre of the courtyard on a new plinth, constructed with the new social distancing measures in mind. This project has been designed in collaboration with the award-winning exhibition design studio Nissen Richards, who have previously worked on the Wallace Collection exhibitions *Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company*, *An Enquiring Mind: Manolo Blahnik at the Wallace Collection*, and *Henry Moore: The Helmet Heads*

Until the nineteenth century, the equestrian armour was preserved in the ancestral home of the Freyberg family at Schloss Hohenaschau in Bavaria. Around 1850 the contents of this formidable mountain fortress were sold at auction, and in 1867, the armour was acquired by the Comte de Nieuwerkerke, who displayed it in his apartment at the Louvre in Paris. There, it was studied by many artists, including the renowned architect and medievalist Eugene Viollet-le-Duc, who published it in his famous *Dictionnaire raisonné du mobilier français de l'époque Carolingienne à la Renaissance* (1858-70). In 1871 the armour was sold to Sir Richard Wallace, along with the rest of the Nieuwerkerke collection.

Dr Tobias Capwell, Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection, and Project Lead on the Equestrian Armour Redisplay said:

"This armour is a world-famous image of the medieval European knight. Over the last 150 years, it has inspired artists, served as a standard illustration in encyclopaedias and history books, and thrilled generations of visitors to Hertford House. Only three full equestrian armours made before the sixteenth century survive in the world today, and this is the only one preserved complete, as originally made. It was meant to be seen in the open, in natural light, and for the first time in living memory, our visitors will be able to see it that way too."

Dr Xavier Bray, Director of the Wallace Collection, said:

"Like many organisations, 2020 has been very difficult for the Wallace Collection, and together with our colleagues across the sector, we're seeing that we need to give audiences a specific reason to come back to visit. Our arms and armour collections are of outstanding quality, and continually popular with our visitors. We hope that the armour redisplay comes as a proverbial 'call to arms' for our audiences to come back and experience the wonderful art we have at the Wallace Collection, just in time for half term."

ENDS

Notes to Editors

For further press information please contact Kathryn Havelock or Billy Ward on press@wallacecollection.org / 07483 310811

A PDF of this release and accompanying imagery is available online: Equestrian Armour
PRESS RELEASE

For public information, please print 020 7560 9500 or wallacecollection.org
The Wallace Collection, Hertford House, Manchester Square, London, W1U 3BN

Tickets for Equestrian Redisplay

The equestrian display is included in free tickets to the Wallace Collection.

Restaurant and Café

On the 24th of October, the Wallace Collection's Restaurant and Café will reopen, offering afternoon tea, light lunches, coffees and pastries. Visitors will need to book a free Wallace Collection ticket to access the Wallace Restaurant.

Bookings can be made via the Wallace Restaurant website or by phone:

<https://www.peytonandbyrne.co.uk/venues/wallace-restaurant>
02075639505

Membership

Members of the Wallace Collection enjoy free unlimited entry to all Wallace Collection exhibitions, as well as exclusive previews, private views and special events, plus discounts in the Wallace Collection Shop and Restaurant. For further information please visit:

www.wallacecollection.org/support-us/become-a-member/

Opening hours

Open daily, current opening hours: 10am-4pm

Social Media

Instagram: [@wallacemuseum](https://www.instagram.com/wallacemuseum)

Facebook: [@wallacecollection](https://www.facebook.com/wallacecollection)

Twitter: [@WallaceMuseum](https://twitter.com/WallaceMuseum)

YouTube: TheWallacecollection

Events

A series of online events including lectures, seminars, art classes and courses are available to book now exploring various aspects of the collection. Find out more:

wallacecollection.org/whats-on

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 fourteenth to the late nineteenth centuries by artists such as Titian, Velazquez, Rubens and Van Dyck; princely arms and armour; and one of the finest collections of eighteenth-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

Image Sheet

Download High Res Images here: <https://bit.ly/3jXqtMo>

Wallace Collection Highlight webpage - <https://bit.ly/2lyAjXv>

Museum Plus Link - <https://bit.ly/33Vbb56>