

Embargoed until 10.30am, Thursday 25 June

*The Wallace Collection - Reopening Announcement*

Today the Wallace Collection celebrates its birthday. It has been 120 years since the Collection opened its doors to the public on 25 June 1900. Since that date, it has closed three times - once during each of the world wars, and again on 18 March 2020 in response to Public Health England's guidance to halt the spread of the novel coronavirus and its associated illness Covid-19.

Following the UK government's announcement that museums can open from July, and on the 120th anniversary of our doors opening for the first time, The Wallace Collection today announces that it will reopen to the public on Wednesday 15 July.

The following changes will be in effect:

- The Collection will operate with reduced opening hours, from 11am to 3pm, in order to protect our visitors and staff from travel during rush hours.
- Free, timed tickets need to be booked in advance on the Wallace Collection website to manage visitor numbers and capacities.
- A one-way fixed route will be in operation to visit the galleries, starting on the upper floor. Not all galleries will be open for visitors.
- The café and cloakroom will be closed.
- The shop will be open and has been enlarged to allow greater space for social distancing, and the online shop will be open.

Measures will be in place to ensure effective social distancing is maintained at all times, and these arrangements will be continually monitored and evaluated with the hope that opening hours can be extended in the near future. Further visitor information can be found at [www.wallacecollection.org/visiting-safely](http://www.wallacecollection.org/visiting-safely)

Free, timed tickets are available to book now for Wallace Collection members, and will be available to book by the general public from Monday 29 June.

The Wallace Collection is also delighted to announce that the critically acclaimed temporary exhibition, *Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company*, in partnership with DAG, will reopen on Wednesday 29 July. As the rest of the museum closed in March, the exhibition was entering its final weeks with one month remaining. Thanks to the generosity of its lenders and supporters, it will be on display for an additional 6 weeks, and will now close on Sunday 13 September 2020. Tickets for *Forgotten Masters* go on sale on Wednesday 22 July.

The Wallace Collection is also offering complimentary entry to the Forgotten Masters exhibition for NHS workers for the duration of its revised run. Tickets for NHS workers and Wallace Collection Members can be reserved in advance by emailing [tickets@wallacecollection.org](mailto:tickets@wallacecollection.org) and redeemed by presenting a valid Wallace Collection membership card or NHS staff identification on arrival.

Further announcements regarding the temporary exhibition programme will be made in due course.

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

“I am thrilled that we are able to welcome visitors back to the Wallace Collection from 15 July. It is particularly fitting that we can make this announcement today – exactly 120 years since we opened our doors for our first time in 1900. These are unprecedented times, and it has never felt more important to bring art and culture to our audiences. We are hugely looking forward to sharing our wonderful objects and spaces with the public again.”

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to Editors**

For further press information please contact Kathryn Havelock or Billy Ward on [press@wallacecollection.org](mailto:press@wallacecollection.org) / 07483 310811

#### **Collection Tickets**

Free, timed tickets for the Collection are available for booking by Wallace Collection Members on the [Wallace Collection website](#) from today, and from Monday 29 June for the general public.

#### **Exhibition Tickets**

Tickets for *Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company* will be on sale from the Wallace Collection website from Wednesday 22 July 2020. Tickets are £12 for adults, concessions apply for people with disabilities, students, jobseekers, and Art Fund members. Tickets for NHS workers and Wallace Collection members are free and can be obtained by emailing [tickets@wallacecollection.org](mailto:tickets@wallacecollection.org) [www.wallacecollection.org/forgotten-masters-indian-painting-east-india-company](http://www.wallacecollection.org/forgotten-masters-indian-painting-east-india-company)

#### **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/](http://www.wallacecollection.org/support-us/become-a-member/)

#### **Opening hours**

New daily opening hours are 11am-3pm.

### **Social Media**

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

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

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

### **Wallace from Home**

An online content hub was created during lockdown bringing together weekly thematic blogs, behind-the-scenes content, exhibition online tours, talks and lectures and learning resources for families. Find out more: <https://www.wallacecollection.org/wallace-from-home/>

### **About the Wallace Collection**

The Wallace Collection is one of the most significant collections of fine and decorative arts in the world and the greatest bequest of art ever left to the British Nation. The Collection encompasses old master oil paintings from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century including works by Titian, Velazquez, Rubens and Van Dyck, princely arms and armour, and one of the finest collections of French 18<sup>th</sup>-century art in all media. [www.wallacecollection.org](http://www.wallacecollection.org)

### **Images**

A series of collection and building images can be downloaded from here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1nZAyWroZm8-BfgOGkACbV1vEM7kwPBu6>

All images are © The Trustees of the Wallace Collection, London.