

The Wallace Collection - New Exhibition Announcement:

Sir Richard Wallace: The Collector

20 June 2018 - 6 January 2019

Free Admission

wallacecollection.org / [@WallaceMuseum](https://twitter.com/WallaceMuseum) / #RW200

In June 2018, the Wallace Collection opens its new £1.2 million exhibition space with *Sir Richard Wallace: The Collector*, an exhibition celebrating 200 years since the birth of the museum's founder, Sir Richard Wallace. The exhibition explores the man, his life and his unprecedented contribution to the nation's cultural heritage.

The supposed illegitimate son of the Fourth Marquess of Hertford, Sir Richard Wallace unexpectedly inherited the Marquess's dazzling collection of art in 1870, an act which was to change the direction of his own life and that of the masterpieces in his care.

A major international philanthropist and cultural luminary of his time, yet also an enigmatic and private individual, Sir Richard believed in sharing his inheritance with a wider audience. He was also a prominent collector, adding extensively to the Collection prior to his death in 1890.

During this bicentenary year, we explore the many facets of this extraordinary and undiscovered man. *Sir Richard Wallace: The Collector*, highlights for the first time Sir Richard's personal contributions to the Collection we know today, focusing on the diverse and idiosyncratic works of art he acquired and his considerable philanthropic legacy. Featuring over twenty works of art collected by Sir Richard, the exhibition explores his eclectic tastes and highlights some of the unexpected treasures of the museum, including a gold trophy head from the West African state of Asante, imperial ceremonial wine cups from China and a majestic ostrich figure made by the Augsburg silversmith Elias Zorer, plus spectacular examples of arms and armour, jewellery and more.

There is also a full programme of events and family activities, ranging from *Muso: Singing Wallace to Life*, a site specific performance by innovative theatre company Impropera, to an international conference exploring *Sir Richard Wallace and His Age*. Alongside the exhibition, our 'Treasure of the Month' series focuses on artworks collected by Sir Richard, with associated talks from our curators and a Sir Richard Wallace Trail throughout the museum, plus monthly film screenings exploring the world in which Sir Richard lived.

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

'The Wallace Collection is the greatest gift ever made to the nation and in 2018 we celebrate the man who made that gift possible, Sir Richard Wallace. It is fitting that *Sir Richard Wallace: The Collector* should be the first exhibition in our new £1.2 million exhibition space, reflecting Sir Richard's desire to share great art with diverse audiences. The exhibition is the first in a wide ranging programme of both contemporary and old master exhibitions that will present our extensive collections of paintings, sculpture, armour, and decorative arts in a new light.'

ENDS

For further press information please contact Eleanor Nimmo on press@wallacecollection.org / 0207 563 9516

Notes to Editor

The Wallace Collection announces £1.2 million new exhibition space

The Wallace Collection has secured funding to develop expanded exhibition galleries, tripling the capacity of the museum's existing exhibition space and setting the scene for an ambitious programme of temporary, ticketed exhibitions. The new space will enable the museum to explore aspects of its existing collection in more depth and collaborate with other institutions, creating partnerships both within the UK and internationally. This transformative project has been made possible by the generosity of The Linbury Trust, the Wolfson Foundation, and an anonymous major donor, creating facilities that reflect the vision and ambition of the Director and Board of Trustees and the growing number of museum visitors.

About the Wallace Collection

The Wallace Collection is one of the most significant collections of European 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 14th to the late 19th century including works by Titian, Velazquez, Rubens and Van Dyck, princely arms and armour, and one of the finest collections of French 18th century art in all media.

<http://www.wallacecollection.org/>

Sir Richard Wallace: The Collector - Image Sheet

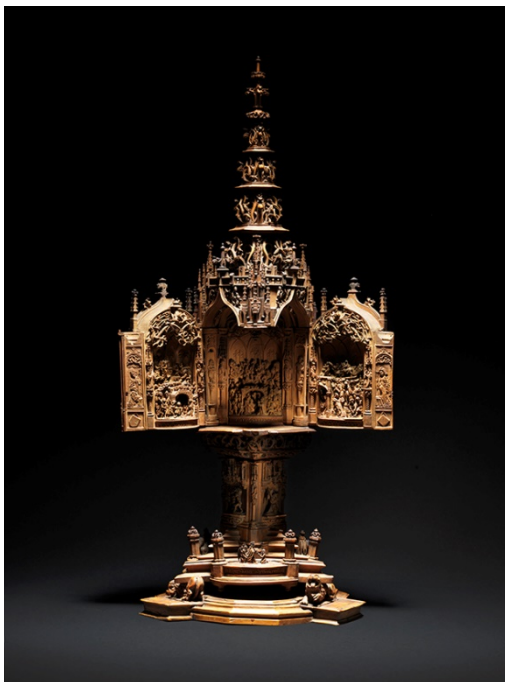
20 June 2018 - 6 January 2019



Silver Ostrich Statuette
c. 1600, Augsburg, Germany
© The Wallace Collection



Gold Trophy Head
19th century or earlier, Asante (Ghana)
© The Wallace Collection



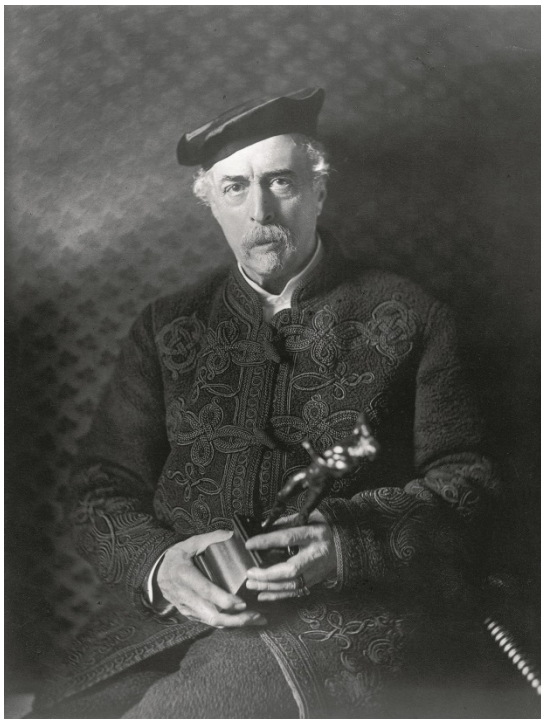
Boxwood Miniature Triptych
Early 16th century, Netherlands
© The Wallace Collection



The Bell of St Mura
11th-16th centuries, Ireland
© The Wallace Collection



Imperial Wine Cups
18th century, China
© The Wallace Collection



Sir Richard Wallace
© The Wallace Collection