

THE WALLACE COLLECTION LOANS OUT POLICY

Introduction

On 1st October 2019 the Board of Trustees and Director of the Wallace Collection publicly announced that it would join other national museums in loaning works of art from its collection, both to the UK and internationally. Because the Wallace Collection resides in Sir Richard Wallace's original home at Hertford House, Manchester Square, in central London, each loan request will be considered extremely carefully in order to minimise disturbance to its unique environment

In line with its strategic plan, [Making Culture Matter 2018-2021](#), the Wallace Collection is committed to broadening and deepening public access to the works of art in its care. Lending works will enable the museum to meet the key recommendations of both the Strategic Review of the DCMS sponsored museums and the Mendoza (Museums) Review published in 2017. The Wallace Collection is keen to work with national and international museums to increase access to the Collection.

Compared to other national museums, the Wallace Collection is modest in size, both in the staff that it employs and the budget that it operates with. Due to these restrictions, the Wallace Collection will only be able to consider loan agreements under very special circumstances.

History

The Wallace Collection was formed by four generations of Marquesses of Hertford and by Sir Richard Wallace (the supposed illegitimate son of the fourth Marquess), between the 1780s and the 1880s. Since the 1870s the Collection has been housed in Hertford House, one of the Hertford-Wallace residences and a Grade II listed building. The Collection was bequeathed to the British Nation by Lady Wallace in 1897. Hertford House and the freehold were acquired by the Government so that it could be transformed into a museum. The Wallace Collection opened to the public on 22 June 1900.

A Treasury Minute of 28 July 1897 appointed the first Board of Trustees to act on the authority of a Declaration of Trust dated 27 July 1899, however the current Board was created by the Museums and Galleries Act 1992 ("the 1992 Act"), which now specifies the Board's general function to maintain, exhibit and grant access to, and promote public understanding and enjoyment of, the Collection. Responsibility for Government financing of the Wallace Collection rests with the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport ("DCMS"), from whom the museum receives a Grant-in-Aid from monies provided by Parliament. The museum is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by DCMS. It is a charity exempt from registration under the Charities Act 2011 and DCMS is its principal regulator.

The museum contains Old Master paintings, miniatures, sculpture, French furniture, porcelain and goldsmiths' work, European, African and Asian arms and armour, and medieval and Renaissance works of art. All are of the highest quality and of international importance. Its holdings of French eighteenth-century art, European princely arms and armour and Old Master paintings are recognised internationally as being outstanding.

In 2019, the Wallace Collection was granted a section 105 order under the Charities Act 2011 which authorises the Collection to borrow and lend objects, in line with other National Museums.

The Wallace Collection Loans Out Policy

1. Background

1.1. This policy covers the temporary loan of all objects in the Wallace Collection for any period of time for the purpose of exhibition.

1.2 In 2019, after consulting with DCMS (the Wallace Collection's principal regulator) the Charity Commission granted an Order under section 105 of the Charities Act 2011 to authorise the lending of objects for exhibition and the following powers are vested in the Board of Trustees:

1.2.1 "Being satisfied that it is expedient in the interests of the Charity that it should do so, the Commission authorises the Charity:

(1) to lend any objects in the Charity's collection (whether the loan is for purposes of public exhibition or not and whether, under the terms of the loan, the object is to remain in the United Kingdom or not) provided that in deciding whether or not to lend an object, and in determining the time for which, and the conditions subject to which, an object is to be lent, the Charity:

(a) shall give special consideration to the request for the loan of an object for public exhibition; and

(b) subject to that, shall have regard to the interests of students and other persons visiting the Charity's collection, the sustainability of the prospective borrower, the purpose of the loan and the physical condition and degree of rarity of the object and any risk to which it is likely to be exposed.

2. Principles

2.1. The Wallace Collection will make loans for the following reasons:

2.1.1. to increase national and international access to the Collection

2.1.2. to broaden and deepen knowledge and further scholarship about the Collection

2.1.3. to support the strategic objectives of the Wallace Collection, including staging significant loaned exhibitions

2.1.4 to increase national and international reach and develop special partnerships

2.2. Visitors to the Wallace Collection expect to see our best celebrated masterpieces on display and the Collection aims as far as possible to respect the integrity of the Collection, and therefore in considering requests for loans from the Collection the following applies:

2.2.1. special attention will be paid to avoid loaning objects which have been deemed by the Board of Trustees to be of particular importance, including those of greatest significance and those of most importance to the Collection's audiences.

2.2.2. an object which has been lent to an institution within the past three years will only be lent again within this period in exceptional circumstances.

- 2.3. Loans will not be made in circumstances which might damage the Collection's standing and reputation.
- 2.4. Borrowers should be able to make a strong curatorial argument and persuasive case for the loan.
- 2.5. The Collection will not lend to any exhibitions which include objects known to have been stolen, illegally exported or illegally excavated.
- 2.6. The Collection will only lend to venues which can fulfil the Wallace Collection's current Conditions of Loan.
- 2.7. Objects in poor, fragile or unstable condition making them unfit for travel or display will not be loaned, or if movements in the course of any other aspect of the loan will provide an unacceptable risk to its physical condition.
- 2.8. Objects will only be loaned if there is assurance that the object will be returned to the Collection at the end of the temporary loan period.
- 2.9. Decisions to lend are taken by the Board of Trustees, acting on the recommendation of the Loans Committee.