



WADDESDON
Rothschild Collections

Two Reynolds masterpieces saved for the nation, a light-filled celebration of nature with Bruce and Tink Munro, while James Brunt returns to host a showcase of new works inspired by the glorious grounds

2026 at Waddesdon Manor

Four Seasons - New work by Bruce and Tink Munro

Spring 2026

Waddesdon is delighted to welcome back light artist Bruce Munro in a father-daughter collaboration with his daughter, Tink.

Bruce's relationship with Waddesdon goes back to 2012 and was followed by a 4-year artistic residency which introduced the light art programme at the Manor.



This time, the Munros are working together for the first time in the UK on an exhibition of light works exploring time and place, and the influence of nature, landscape and the environment on their art.

Bruce's work has long been rooted in the emotional and physical inspiration of place and memory, while Tink is also deeply concerned about the environment and the challenges it faces. The new work by Bruce combines digital photography, light, projection and sound to evoke his ideas, including a piece which translates the music of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* into dynamic light. Tink's work uses sustainable birch-bark fabric, pierced and back-lit, to create an ethereal commentary on the natural environment.

The exhibition takes place in the newly refurbished Coach House at the Stables.

Art in Nature - James Brunt returns

May 2026

Another welcome returnee to Waddesdon in 2026 is the land artist, James Brunt.

In 2025, James created a huge, 70-metre mandala (large enough to be visible on Google Earth) on the Manor's south lawn in collaboration with Jon Foreman and he's returning this year to make even more super-sized wonders in the

grounds. The new celebration of nature will take place over 8 days in May 2026, and, once again, James is bringing some of Britain and Europe's leading land and environmental artists with him.

They will connect the spaces around the new Woodland Playground and the gardens, with a sequence of new work, each inspired by and made using materials gathered from the beautiful grounds

Visitors will be able to see all these artists at work, and, importantly, will be able to get involved with creativity themselves. There will also be an accompanying programme of free events and workshops with the artists.



The Rothschild story retold

25 March – 1 November 2026

The Family Room and the James and Dorothy de Rothschild Rooms at the Manor tell the story of the members of the Rothschild family who created and care for Waddesdon.

The story spans their origins in the crowded Jewish ghetto in 18th-century Frankfurt to the establishment of their famous banking business, great houses and marvellous collections of the 19th century and beyond of which Waddesdon is the best surviving example.

The current displays date to the reopening of the Manor after the Centenary Restoration of 1996, so the Curatorial teams are rethinking these spaces to bring the story up to date and showcase the most recent research on the family and their activities. The displays, designed by award-winning exhibition designers ZMMA, will incorporate digital and interactive elements to bring the complex history and family tree to life, highlighting the personalities and passions of the key family members from Baron Ferdinand, the builder of Waddesdon to the late Lord Rothschild and his daughter Dame Hannah, who has taken over as Chair of the Rothschild Foundation, following in her father's footsteps.

The new display will illuminate the influence of some of the female members of the family in new ways and explore the long-standing Rothschild interest not only in collecting great works of art, but in horticulture, nature and sustainability, and the role the Rothschild Foundation plays in these areas today.

Saved for the Nation - two superstars of 18th century portraiture join the National Trust collections

25 March – 1 November 2026

The new season will celebrate the transfer to the National Trust of two of Sir Joshua Reynolds's (1723-1792) greatest masterpieces - the portraits of *Joanna Leigh, Mrs Richard Bennett Lloyd* (1775-6) and the impresario and actor *David Garrick, torn between Tragedy and Comedy* (1761).

These great paintings have a distinguished Rothschild provenance since the 19th century, having belonged to Nathaniel, 1st Lord Rothschild



at Tring Park. Nathaniel shared his passion for 18th-century portraiture with other members of the family, including his cousin Ferdinand, whose own collection of Reynolds' paintings can also be seen at Waddesdon. Following the death of Jacob, 4th Baron Rothschild in 2024, they have been generously offered by his Estate to the National Trust under the Acceptance in Lieu scheme.

The pair have hung at Waddesdon on loan for 30 years, but this acquisition gives us the opportunity for fresh research and celebration in a special object-in-focus display, which will set them in new contexts.

The portrait of Mrs Lloyd will also be the centrepiece of ***American Connections***, a trail through the Manor highlighting objects and works of art with links to the USA in celebration of the 250th Anniversary of American Independence in 2026.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGES CAN BE DOWNLOADED BY CLICKING ON THIS LINK

- Bruce Munro at the *Field of Light*, Uluru, Australia © 2025 Bruce Munro. Photography by Serena Munro.
- Tink Munro © Tink Munro
- Waddesdon Mandala by James Brunt and Jon Foreman, Art in Nature. Image courtesy of Layla Parkin
- Joshua Reynolds, *David Garrick (1716 - 1779) between Tragedy and Comedy*, 1760-1761. Waddesdon (National Trust). Accepted in lieu of tax by H M Government and allocated to the National Trust, 2025. Photo: Waddesdon Image Library, Mike Fear
- Joshua Reynolds, *Joanna Leigh, Mrs Richard Bennett Lloyd (b.1758) Inscribing a Tree*, 1775-1776. Waddesdon (National Trust). Accepted in lieu of tax by H.M. Government and allocated to the National Trust, 2025. Photo: Waddesdon Image Library, Mike Fear

Waddesdon Manor was built at the end of the 19th century by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in the style of a French early 16th-century château. Baron Ferdinand was an inspired collector, and the house was designed to showcase his exceptional collection of English and Dutch paintings, French 18th-century furniture, Sèvres porcelain, and other decorative arts. When Ferdinand died in 1898, he left Waddesdon to his sister, Alice, who also was a great collector. Upon her death the house passed to her great-nephew, James de Rothschild, who inherited a substantial part of his father Baron Edmond's great collection. In 1957, to ensure its future in perpetuity, Waddesdon was bequeathed to the National Trust. The Rothschild family continues to run Waddesdon through a family charitable trust, the Rothschild Foundation. Until February 2024, it was under the chairmanship of Jacob, 4th Baron Rothschild. His eldest daughter, Hannah Rothschild, is now the Chair. More at <https://waddesdon.org.uk/about-us/press/notes-for-editors/>

For more information on Waddesdon Manor and its exhibitions, visit www.waddesdon.org.uk, like @WaddesdonManor on Facebook, follow @WaddesdonManor on Twitter and @waddesdonmanor_nt on Instagram.

ZMMA is a multidisciplinary creative practice which draws on expertise in architecture, exhibition design, graphic design, digital conceptualisation, interpretive planning, and storytelling to deliver transformational projects for clients and communities. Our experience is in bringing a bold and unified vision to complex cultural sites. We engage deeply with architecture and objects, exploring history and narrative threads to provide a catalyst for storytelling. We work interpretatively with materials, space, and light to connect audiences with art and heritage in innovative, atmospheric, and immersive ways. Our approach allows us to hone comprehensive sustainability programmes to each new project. Through our work we renew and regenerate buildings, while unlocking spaces and collections, making them accessible and memorable to all.

The Acceptance in Lieu (AIL) scheme is administered by Arts Council England. AIL allows those who have a bill of Inheritance Tax to pay the tax by transferring important or pre-eminent cultural, scientific or historic allocations to the nation. AIL is not a philanthropy scheme, and items are not 'donated' to a museum, library or archive, pre-eminent works are offered in lieu of tax. Material accepted under the scheme is allocated to a public collection and is available for all. The Acceptance in Lieu Panel, chaired by Michael Clarke CBE, advises on whether property offered in lieu is of suitable importance (pre-eminent) and offered at a value which is fair to both nation and taxpayer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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