

JEFF KOONS at the Ashmolean

7 February–9 June 2019



The Ashmolean's spring 2019 exhibition will be devoted to one of the world's leading contemporary artists, Jeff Koons. Curated by Koons himself together with guest curator Norman Rosenthal, the show will feature seventeen important works, fourteen of which have never been exhibited in the UK before. They span the artist's entire career and his most well-known series including *Equilibrium*, *Statuary*, *Banalilty*, *Antiquity* and his recent *Gazing Ball* sculptures and paintings.

Jeff Koons (b. 1955) has been described as the most influential, subversive, famous, expensive and controversial artist working today. In showing his work at the Ashmolean, the world's oldest public museum where the collections range from prehistory to the present, the exhibition asks you to look at Jeff Koons anew, against the backdrop of art history and ideas about art with which his work engages.

← detail of **Seated Ballerina**
mirror-polished stainless steel with transparent colour coating
210.8 x 113.5 x 199.8 cm
© Jeff Koons
Artist's proof
Edition of 3
2010–2015

LAST SUPPER IN POMPEII

25 July 2019–12 January 2020



When the ash from Mount Vesuvius began raining down on Pompeii in AD 79, people in the resort-town were engaged in typically Italian activities – eating, drinking and producing food. Located in the sunny paradise of southern Italy, Pompeii was sandwiched between lush vineyards and fertile orchards to one side and the bountiful waters of the Bay of Naples to the other. The town produced more wine, olive oil and fish-sauce than it could consume and exported its gourmet products across the Mediterranean.

Everything from the exquisite mosaics in the villas of the wealthy to the remains found in kitchen drains reveals what the people of Pompeii loved to eat and drink. The Ashmolean's 2019 summer exhibition, **LAST SUPPER IN POMPEII**, will tell the story of this ancient Roman town's love affair with food. Many of the objects, on loan from Naples and Pompeii, have never before left the country. They range from the luxury furnishings of the Roman dining room (bronze and marble statues, frescoes and silver dining services), to the carbonised food that was on the table when the volcano erupted.

↗ **Mosaic of a skeleton holding two wine jugs or askoi**
First century AD
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