

THE BRITISH MUSEUM



Treasures of the World's Cultures

A TOURING EXHIBITION FROM THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Treasures of the World's Cultures

This exhibition provides a global survey of human material culture over hundreds of thousands of years – from the stone handaxes of our earliest human ancestors to contemporary art works that reflect the concerns of the modern age.

Treasures of the World's Cultures attempts to give visitors a sense of the whole British Museum collection as it can be experienced in London. It brings together over 200 objects from all continents and from all ages. Both visually splendid and materially diverse, the exhibition includes some of the most famous artefacts in the Museum's collection including a selection of 11th-century chess pieces found on the Hebridean Island of Lewis, skilfully crafted brass plaques from the powerful West African state of Benin, four-and-half-thousand-year-old jewellery discovered at the Royal Cemetery at Ur in southern Iraq and superb Javanese gamelan instruments collected by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles.

The exhibition is divided into seven principle sections – the first six explore the civilisations and cultures of the world's major geographic regions while the final section focuses on works from across the globe made in the 20th and 21st centuries. Object descriptions and introductory texts encourage audiences to compare and contrast human experience and cultural achievement across time and place. Through these exceptional artefacts, both ancient and modern, visitors will discern some of the varied ways that different human groups have organised their societies and given expression to their existence.

Content

- Africa
- The Middle East
- Asia
- Europe
- The Americas
- Oceania
- The Modern World



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1. Mosque lamp. Enamelled glass. Mamluk dynasty. Cairo, Egypt, c.AD 1350–1355.
2. Mummy portrait on limewood, Middle Egypt, AD 140–160. 3. A selection of the Lewis chesspieces. Probably from Norway, late 12th century AD. 4. Pectoral in the form of a human-bird figure, Columbia, South America, 1000–1600. 5. Sandstone standing figure of a goddess. From India, 11th century AD.

Further information

Curators

Brendan Moore has worked in a number of the Museum's curatorial departments as a collections manager, exhibition curator and project manager. In recent years, he has worked on major cross-departmental projects including the development of the award-winning Enlightenment Gallery and television series about the Museum for Channel 4 and the BBC. He is curator of the exhibitions *The Metal Mirror: The Photographs of Stephen Sack*, *Treasures of the World's Cultures* and *Jewellery: adornment, identity and magic*.

Practical details

- Total number of objects: approximately 200
- Space requirements: approximately 1000–1300m²
- Object descriptions and texts for the exhibition will be provided in English
- The display period is flexible subject to a minimum of three months

For further details of this exhibition

Email internationaltours@britishmuseum.org
or visit www.britishmuseum.org/internationaltours

Note: A confirmed exhibition object list will be provided at a later date.



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COVER: Cast bronze tusk-stand in the form of a human head, representing Oba of Benin, 12th–15th century AD. ABOVE: Kester, The Throne of Weapons. Made from rifles including AK47s, 2001. © Kester.