The Asahi Shimbun Displays

Tutankhamun reimagined
Tutankhamun’s unexpected death, ending a short reign of around nine years (about 1336–1327 BC), limited his impact on ancient Egyptian history. However, the discovery of his almost intact tomb in 1922 transformed him into the most famous pharaoh of them all.

The unprecedented find marked a turning point in our understanding of ancient Egypt, and the previously obscure king became a household name.

One hundred years after the discovery of his tomb, Tutankhamun is for many a powerful symbol of Egyptian identity and a source of artistic inspiration. The British Museum has commissioned work by Egyptian graffiti artist Nofal O to mark this centenary.

This display was curated in partnership with Heba Khairy (Grand Egyptian Museum).
My name is Ahmed Nofal, known as Nofal O. I started practicing graffiti or street art influenced by hip hop culture in 2009. I went deeper into this culture and found that this type of art is what best represents me. The art of murals was used by ancient Egyptians to tell stories and record history.

I began to integrate contemporary hip-hop culture, colours and styles with the stories and tales of the ancient Egyptians. My own style emerged: retelling the stories of the ancient Egyptians in the form of street art and modern graffiti.
Tutankhamun-inspired street art

The graffiti in this display was commissioned to mark the centenary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. It was created by Ahmed Nofal who has produced many vivid street murals in Cairo influenced by Egypt’s ancient art. Here his work, inspired by Tutankhamun and his treasures, has been painted directly onto the walls. Photographs documenting the creation of the work, and the final result, will be kept by the Museum as a permanent record of the project.

Above right: Tutankhamun's gold death mask is the best known of the objects found in his tomb in the Valley of the Kings.
Rediscovering Tutankhamun

This statue depicts Tutankhamun as a priest presenting bountiful offerings. Flowers, ducks and grapes hang from the table he once held. It was probably placed in a temple dedicated to Amun-Ra. Before the discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb in 1922, little was known about this young king. After his death, Tutankhamun’s name was erased from historical records and removed from monuments and statues by his successors.

18th Dynasty, reign of Tutankhamun (about 1336–1327 BC)

Provenance unknown, probably Karnak or Luxor, Thebes, Egypt

Granodiorite

EA 75
Rewriting history

The inscription running along the back pillar of this statue meant that it was long-believed to depict Horemheb, one of Tutankhamun's successors. However, based on comparison with other statues and objects made during Tutankhamun's reign, the youthful facial features indicate that the figure was originally carved for him. It was subsequently reinscribed by Horemheb who sought to erase the memory of the young king by usurping his monuments.

18th Dynasty, reign of Tutankhamun (about 1336–1327 BC)

Provenance unknown, probably Karnak or Luxor, Thebes, Egypt

Granodiorite

EA 75
Ahmed Nofal, artist

I was influenced by Tutankhamun’s precious treasures ... I was keen to link the stories of the past with my artwork. King Tut is an icon and an inspiration for my graffiti in Cairo.

Heba Khairy, exhibition coordinator

Every time I walk in Egyptian streets and see Tutankhamun’s mask decorating the facades of shops, buildings or walls, I am amazed at how this young king and his treasures have become a national symbol of Egypt today.
Text on the wall to the right of entrance:

**Tutankhamun trail**

Discover more about Tutankhamun’s reign and legacy by visiting seven stops in the Museum.

The trail starts here in **Tutankhamun reimagined** (The Asahi Shimbun Displays, Room 3) and then continues in Egyptian sculpture (Room 4).

Look out for this graphic to help you find the objects.

Scan the QR code to follow the trail and find out more.
Text on the wall to the right of entrance:

Find out more

Related galleries

Egyptian sculpture (Room 4)
Egyptian life and death (Room 61), *The Michael Cohen Gallery*
Egyptian death and afterlife: mummies (Rooms 62 – 63), *The Roxie Walker Galleries*
Early Egypt (Room 64)
Sudan, Egypt and Nubia (Room 65)

The objects recovered from Tutankhamun's tomb are currently housed in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and the Grand Egyptian Museum in Giza. Tutankhamun’s mummified remains are in his tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

Events

Explore the themes of this display through related events. For the full programme, visit britishmuseum.org
Large print guide

Scan the QR code for a large print guide of the display and trail.

Acknowledgements

The British Museum thanks Heba Khairy of the Grand Egyptian Museum, the artist Ahmed Nofal and photographer Ahmed Amin for collaborating on this display.

This display was developed as part of the British Museum’s International Training Programme. The programme provides a global forum to disseminate current practice and to exchange knowledge and skills, helping to shape the museums of the future. Heba Khairy’s participation in the project was supported by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.