

"La Caixa" Banking Foundation are delighted to announced the renewal of their partnership with the British Museum to present 5 more years of joint exhibitions seeing a total of 20 displays at CaixaForum venues, with works ranging from Egyptian mummies to pop art, all from the iconic collections of the British Museum

"la Caixa" Banking Foundation and the British Museum extend their agreement for the joint organisation of exhibitions to 2024

- **Isidro Fainé, Chairman of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, and Sir Richard Lambert, Chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum, today signed a cooperation agreement to organise five different exhibitions up to 2024.**
- **This new agreement between the two institutions will broaden the cooperation established over the last few years. "la Caixa" Banking Foundation's CaixaForum cultural centres in Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Saragossa, Palma and (from 2021) Valencia will host five new jointly-organised shows based on the British Museum's collection, totalling of 20 displays hosted at CaixaForum venues across Spain.**
- **The first exhibition resulting from this new agreement will be *The Human Image*, which will be presented from 2020 to 2022. The show will explore representations of the body throughout history and different cultures.**
- **Next, *The American Dream* will cast its gaze on the past six decades of US history through prints by such celebrated American artists as Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Ed Ruscha, Kara Walker and Julie Mehretu.**
- **The third exhibition will showcase the artistry of Pacific islanders, enabling visitors to discover the close relationship between art and life in Oceania. Finally, the last two exhibitions covered by the agreement and presented in Spain between 2022 and 2024 will focus on the role of the goddess in different religions and the results of a major research project into Egyptian mummies.**

Barcelona, 22 June 2018. This morning, Isidro Fainé, Chairman of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, and Sir Richard Lambert, Chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum, signed a cooperation agreement between the two institutions. The agreement, which covers the period from 2020 to 2024, announces a second stage in the strategic alliance to jointly organise exhibitions in Spain that was first launched in 2015.

The new agreement signed today by "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and the British Museum consolidates a historic understanding between two institutions that have worked together over the past several decades. The British Museum has always been a key loaning institution for the exhibitions that "la Caixa" has devoted to the world's major cultures.

These two institutions now take another step forward and further cement their cooperation by signing this second framework agreement, which continues and extends the current pact. The first cooperation agreement, signed in 2015, covered the organisation of four shows from 2016 to 2020, three of them already brought to fruition seeing a total so far of 480.000 visitors across Spain.

The Pillars of Europe: The Middle Ages at the British Museum opened at the CaixaForum centres in Madrid, Barcelona and Saragossa in 2016 and 2017. ***The competition in Ancient Greece*** was presented for the first time in Madrid last year. After travelling to Barcelona and Seville, the show will stop off at Saragossa and Palma. The third project, ***Pharaoh: King of Egypt***, made its debut recently at CaixaForum Barcelona and will subsequently travel to Madrid, Girona, Seville and Tarragona.

Finally, the fourth exhibition, ***Age of Luxury: from the Assyrians to Alexander***, will focus on the idea of luxury in antiquity, will be seen at "la Caixa" Banking Foundation's cultural centres in Barcelona, Madrid and Saragossa between 2019 and 2020.

At that point, this second agreement will enter into effect. Under its provisions, the two institutions will jointly organise five major new exhibitions based on the British Museum's collection for presentation from 2020 to 2024.

These five ambitious projects will generate a total of 20 showings of these exhibitions for the enjoyment of visitors to "la Caixa" Foundation's cultural centres in Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Saragossa and Palma. The new

CaixaForum Valencia, a centre currently under construction, will also host some of these exhibitions.

The new shows will enable visitors in Spain to discover masterpieces from the British Museum's collections. They will be devoted to some of the great civilisations in the history of humanity and many of the works will be seen in Spain for the first time.

Founded in 1753, the British Museum was the world's first national public museum. Today, it receives nearly six million visitors every year, who come to discover a collection of around eight million pieces spanning two million years of human history and culture.

This alliance presents a unique opportunity for visitors in Spain to enjoy works from the British Museum's collection including Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Asian collections. The projects selected for this second stage in the initiative, explore universal themes such as the representation of the human image and the role of goddesses in different religions, all illustrated by objects and art works from ancient times to the present. Plans also include an exhibition devoted specifically to modern print making: *The American Dream*.

The themes of the exhibitions were expressly selected for exhibition in Spain and at CaixaForum centres, which received more than 5.9 million visitors in 2017. These are five projects that cater to a wide range of audiences whilst also providing an educational approach for families and schools visits.

The agreement between "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and the British Museum covers loans of works from the latter's collections and the joint organisation of the exhibitions, as well as their curation by specialists from the Museum. The alliance also opens the door to the joint production of educational activities and materials linked to the exhibitions.

There follow further details about the content and venues of each of these exhibitions.



The Human Image. Masterpieces of Figurative Art

- ✓ *CaixaForum Barcelona, 2020*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Seville, 2020*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Saragossa, 2021*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Valencia, 2021*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Palma, 2022*

The Human Image explores some of the principal themes of figural art, themes frequently found in portraits such as: the ideal of beauty, expressiveness and the transformation of the human body. Each image gives a distinct view of the human figure, and each carries its own particular significance. Nonetheless, when we look at the great range of human images made across the course of history we see that many share common elements and ideas.

A central message underlies the whole exhibition: that, throughout history, all representation of the human body is a means of shaping and communicating both personal and collective identity. The exhibition features a magnificent variety of objects: sculptures, paintings and other works of art from more than thirty centuries that prompt us to consider what it means to be human.



The American Dream: Pop to the Present

- ✓ *CaixaForum Saragossa, 2020*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Madrid, 2020*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Barcelona, 2021*

The past six decades have been among the most dynamic and turbulent in US history, from JFK's assassination, Apollo 11 and Vietnam to the AIDS crisis, racism and gender politics. Responding to the changing times, American artists have produced prints unprecedented in their scale and ambition.

Starting with the explosion of pop art in the 1960s, the exhibition includes works by the most celebrated American artists. From Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg to Ed Ruscha, Kara Walker and Julie Mehretu, all

created highly original prints to rival their paintings and sculptures. Taking inspiration from the world around them, these artists brought printmaking to a much wider and more diverse audience. CaixaForum Saragossa will be the first venue to host this ambitious show, which will present outstanding pieces from the British Museum's collection of modern and contemporary American prints, some for the first time outside the UK, along with important works from other institutions.



Islanders: The Art of Life in Oceania

- ✓ *CaixaForum Madrid, 2021*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Barcelona, 2022*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Saragossa, 2022*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Seville, 2022*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Palma, 2023*

Delicate patterned cloths made from the bark of trees, masks decorated with discs of polished pearl shell, cloaks woven with thousands of tiny red feathers and bold sculptural figures: the arts of the Pacific region are both visually striking and relatively unknown to wider audiences.

Drawing on the British Museum's unparalleled collections, which contain around 47,000 objects from the Pacific, the exhibition will showcase the creativity of these island people, from New Guinea in the west to Easter Island in the east and from Hawaii in the north to New Zealand in the South. Taking an innovative approach, the show will focus, not on the explorations of Europeans in the region, but on the stories of islanders who voyaged to the Old Continent. For instance, the extraordinary life of the sculpture of the god A'a, which arrived in London from the island of Rurutu in the 1820s and has inspired such artists as Picasso and Henry Moore.



Egyptian Mummies: Exploring Ancient Lives

- ✓ *CaixaForum Valencia, 2022*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Madrid, 2022*
 - ✓ *CaixaForum Barcelona, 2023*

The British Museum uses the latest scientific methods to study the Egyptian mummies in its collection. These non-invasive techniques provide insights into life in an ancient land defined by the river Nile.

This exhibition presents the lives of six people who lived from about 900 BC to AD 180. Without the need to unwrap their mummified remains, new findings have enabled us to create a personal profile of each individual, painting a picture of who they were – their age, beliefs and the diseases they suffered from. Each mummy has a story to tell, and the exhibition, which will open firstly at the future CaixaForum Valencia, will focus on the stories of six people, as well as enabling visitors to learn more about the universal themes linked to Ancient Egypt, such as death rituals and the mummification process.



Goddess

- ✓ *CaixaForum Madrid, 2023*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Barcelona, 2024*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Seville, 2024*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Valencia, 2024*

This exhibition celebrates the role of the goddess in world history, from ancient polytheistic religions to modern Hinduism. To this end, it will present a varied group of goddesses from past and present religions and belief systems, focusing on deities from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

to The exhibition will encourage visitors to notice both the differences and the similarities between these diverse deities across time and place. The objects on display explore such themes as the stories surrounding the goddesses' birth or

creation, their associations and abilities, their symbolism and iconography, and the context for their veneration.

"la Caixa" Banking Foundation, allied to major museums around the world

The alliance between "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and the British Museum is the logical result of a common mission to promote knowledge by organising exhibitions that enable audiences to explore universal concerns shared by different civilisations.

This ambitious cooperation agreement forms part of a line of action implemented by "la Caixa" Banking Foundation in recent years with a view to establishing strategic alliances with leading cultural institutions around the world. The goal is to generate synergies with different international centres of the highest standing and to intensify the Foundation's cultural activities, promoting content of the highest rigour and quality.

In 2009, cooperation began with the Louvre Museum to organise major exhibition projects in Spain. More specifically, thanks to two consecutive agreements, a total of 19 shows were organised around 8 exhibition projects. Some of these exhibitions, such as *Music in Antiquity*, recently presented at CaixaForum Madrid after its sojourn at CaixaForum Barcelona, are open to the public at present.

"la Caixa" Foundation has also established a major cooperation programme with the **Prado Museum**. In 2011, "la Caixa" became a benefactor of the Spanish national museum, and in 2015 a new agreement was signed for the organisation and production of four projects, as well as a joint education programme, to be presented at CaixaForum centres and other cultural venues around the country.

The British Museum

Founded in 1753, the British Museum was the first national public museum in the world. From the outset it was a museum of the world, for the world, and this idea still lies at the heart of the Museum's mission today. The collection tells the stories of cultures across the world, from the dawn of human history, over two million years ago, to the present. Objects range from the earliest tools made by

humans and treasures from the ancient world to more recent acquisitions from Africa, Oceania and the Americas, the Middle East, Asia and Europe, as well as the national collections of prints and drawings, and coins and medals. In addition to work in London, the Museum takes part in an extensive programme of loans and tours, lending over 5,000 objects across the UK and throughout the world in 2016/17.

<http://www.britishmuseum.org/>

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