

Thanks to this new collaboration, CaixaForum centres will host 16 major shows devoted to four great historic civilisations from the British Museum's magnificent collection

## "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and the British Museum sign an agreement for the joint organisation of exhibitions

- Elisa Durán, Deputy General Director of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, and Sir Richard Lambert, Chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum, have signed an agreement to cooperate in the organisation of four extraordinary exhibitions to be shown in "la Caixa" venues in Spain between 2016 and 2020.
- Thanks to this new agreement between the two institutions, the eight CaixaForum centres managed by "la Caixa" Banking Foundation will host four major exhibitions, jointly organised and showcasing collections from the British Museum.
- The first exhibition resulting from this cooperation will be *Medieval Europe: Power and Legacy*, which will open at the CaixaForum centres in Madrid, Barcelona and Zaragoza in 2016 and 2017. This show will enable visitors to learn about some of the key events during the thousand-year period that was the Middle Ages in Europe.
- Next, *Ancient Greeks: Athletes, Warriors and Heroes* will visit Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Palma and Zaragoza. The exhibition focuses on competition, a key element in Hellenistic culture.
- The third exhibition, *Pharaohs: Kings of Egypt* introduces visitors to three thousand years of Egypt's ancient history by unveiling its famous leaders: the Pharaohs.
- The programme of exhibitions will conclude in 2020 with another major show, possibly on the Phoenicians, similarly drawn from the great collections of Ancient civilisations.

**London, 1 September 2015.** This morning, Elisa Durán, Deputy General Director of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, and Sir Richard Lambert, Chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum, signed a cooperation agreement between the two organisations that will be in effect for the next four years.

The cooperation agreement signed today between "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and the British Museum reflects an on-going relationship of collaboration between the two institutions.

The British Museum has always been a key loaning institution for the exhibitions that "la Caixa" has devoted to the world's great cultures. Particularly noteworthy in this respect was the museum's cooperation in the organisation in 2006 of a show illustrating the world of Ancient Persia. Another important example of this cooperation took place in 2003, when "la Caixa" organised a show on the masters of the art of engraving, based on works from the British Museum collections.

Now the two organisations take another step forward, increasing their cooperation by signing a framework agreement for the organisation of four major exhibitions from the collection of the British Museum.

These four extraordinary projects will be seen in the form of 16 shows that will open at "la Caixa" Foundation's cultural centres in Madrid, Barcelona, Zaragoza, Palma, Girona, Tarragona and Lleida. There are also plans for the new CaixaForum centre in Seville, currently under construction, to take part in this programme.

These shows will enable visitors to appreciate many famous and intriguing objects from the British Museum's collection. The exhibitions will be devoted to some of the great civilisations in the history of humanity which are most fully represented at the London museum. Most of the works selected will be seen for the first time in Spain.

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

This new partnership of exhibitions is a unique opportunity for visitors in Spain to enjoy works from the British Museum's Egyptian, Phoenician, Greek and Medieval collections. The themes of the exhibitions were expressly selected for exhibition in Spain and at the CaixaForum centres, which received more than

4.6 million visitors last year. Accordingly, these are four projects that seek to cater to a wide range of audiences, as well as taking an educational approach with families and schools visits in mind.

The agreement between "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and the British Museum covers loans of works from the collection of the latter, and the joint organisation of the shows, as well as their curatorship by specialists from the British Museum. The agreement will also involve the co-production of educational activities and materials linked to the exhibitions.

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

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### ***Medieval Europe: Power and Legacy***

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This exhibition spans the period between 400 and 1500 AD and illustrates key events, characters, cities and conflicts in the Middle Ages. As they admire masterpieces produced during this thousand-year period, visitors will also discover how the medieval legacy and influence extend even to the present day.

Beginning just after the fall of the Roman Empire, the exhibition explores Europe through the Middle Ages; the power and splendour of the royal court; the important role played by the Christian Church in everyday life; the development of the knight and warfare; the lifestyles of the different social classes; as well as the social, cultural and political developments affecting Europe at the time. Life in the Medieval city is also highlighted, along with everyday living and the role of merchants and guilds. More importantly, however, Medieval Europe shows the cultural richness of Europe during this fascinating period of history.

- ✓ *CaixaForum Madrid, 2016*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Barcelona, 2017*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Zaragoza, 2017*

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## ***Ancient Greeks: Athletes, Warriors and Heroes***

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This show features a large number of works from the British Museums Greek collection - one of the world's leading classical collections. The outstanding pieces will include armour, sculptures, jewellery, coins and pottery.

The exhibition revolves around the theme of competition in Ancient Greece, not only in the Olympic Games, but also in politics, the performing arts, music and war.

The exhibition forms one of the largest selections of Greek artefacts ever loaned by the British Museum.

The exhibition will now display at its first international venues within Spain.

- ✓ *CaixaForum Madrid, 2017*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Barcelona, 2018*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Seville, 2018*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Zaragoza, 2018*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Palma, 2019*



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## ***Pharaohs: Kings of Egypt***

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Selected from the British Museum's world-renowned collection, this exhibition explores the rituals, symbols and ideologies of the pharaohs.

The exhibition's unique collection of objects transports visitors to ancient Egypt, where they will encounter a culture divided by civil war, conquered by foreign powers and ruled by competing kings.

From Egypt's most revered monarchs to those who were the subject of satire, visitors will discover aspects of an ancient culture rarely seen before.

This show presents over 130 iconic objects spanning 3,000 years in the history of Ancient Egypt, revealing the secrets of that nation's famous leaders, the pharaohs.

- ✓ *CaixaForum Madrid, 2018*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Barcelona, 2019*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Girona, 2019*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Tarragona, 2019*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Lleida, 2020*

***In 2019 - 2020 a fourth major show, possibly on the Phoenicians, will be shown at a number of CaixaForum venues.***

- ✓ *CaixaForum Madrid, 2019*
- ✓ *CaixaForum Barcelona, 2020*
- ✓ *A third centre, to be announced, 2020*

### **"la Caixa", allied to the world's greatest museums**

The cooperation between "la Caixa" Banking Foundation and the **British Museum** comes from a shared mission, to share knowledge through exhibitions based on collections that provide an insight into global cultures.

This ambitious agreement forms part of a line of action launched by "la Caixa" Foundation in recent years to establish strategic alliances with leading cultural institutions around the world. This is with a view to generating synergies with different international centres of the highest standing and intensifying the organisation's cultural activities, promoting content of the highest rigour and quality.

In 2009, cooperation began with the **Louvre Museum** for the organisation of major exhibition projects in Spain. More specifically, thanks to the two consecutive agreements established, a total of 19 shows will be organised, generated by 8 exhibition projects. Some of these exhibitions are already open to the public or will soon be unveiled at different CaixaForum centres. The success of this cooperation is reflected in the number of visitors at the shows already presented, which have attracted a total of more than one million visits to date.

"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. As a result of the agreement between them, the two institutions are working together to organise and produce four projects, as well as on a joint education programme, all based on works from the Prado's

collections. This initiative has resulted in fourteen exhibitions, presented all over Spain.

The Foundation has also established other strategic alliances in recent years. In 2010, permanent cooperation began with **MACBA** (Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona) for the joint management of their respective contemporary art collections. This led to the presentation of joint exhibitions in Spain (Madrid, Bilbao) and in other countries, including Portugal and Mexico, as well as other initiatives related to the international contemporary art scene. Moreover, "la Caixa" Foundation joined forces with the **Joan Miró Foundation** to jointly organise the Joan Miró Prize, which recognizes the most outstanding contemporary artists on the international scene. .

## **The British Museum**

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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, both across the UK and throughout the world. The British Museum lends more objects more widely than any other museum in the world, lending over 4,400 objects in 2014/15. Long-term loans are balanced with requests to draw on the British Museum's study collections to support many of the world's art exhibitions.

The British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG

Admission free

Opening hours 10.00–17.30 Saturday to Thursday and 10.00–20.30 Fridays.

[britishmuseum.org](http://britishmuseum.org) / 020 7323 8000

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**Further information:**

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**For further information on the British Museum**

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