

# BEYOND BEAUTY:

## TRANSFORMING THE BODY IN ANCIENT EGYPT



*Exhibition Dates:* Saturday 30th January - Sunday 24th April 2016

*Private View:* Thursday 28th January 2016 *By Invitation Only*

*Friends of Two Temple Place Private View:* Friday 29th January 2016

*Exhibition Opening Times:* Monday, Thursday - Saturday: 10am - 4:30pm

Wednesday Late: 10am - 9pm, Sunday: 11am - 4:30pm, Closed on Tuesday

*Two Temple Place, London WC2R 3BD [www.twotempleplace.org](http://www.twotempleplace.org)*

Two Temple Place reopens to the public with its fifth annual Winter Exhibition, **Beyond Beauty: Transforming the Body in Ancient Egypt** on 30th January 2016. This major new exhibition allows us to experience the ancient Egyptians at their most spectacular and at their most intimate, uncovering a civilisation fascinated by appearance and identity both in life and death.

Rare surviving imagery on exquisite painted coffins, decorated funerary masks, delicate figurines and beautifully carved reliefs emphasise the importance of body image. Meanwhile jewellery, mirrors, hairpins, scent bottles and makeup provide an insight into some surprisingly familiar daily routines and the ever changing styles of the time. Through artefacts spanning over four millennia, from 3,500 B.C. to 400 A.D., the viewer is invited to ask why Egyptians cared so much about transforming the way they looked and how our perceptions are influenced by the objects they left behind.

*Beyond Beauty* is created by the Bulldog Trust in partnership with 7 museums from across the country. Many of the artefacts on display come from the same archaeological excavations, and are seen together collectively for the first time since their discovery by pioneering Victorian Egyptologists. Drawn from Bagshaw Museum (Kirklees Council), Bexhill Museum, Bolton Museum, Ipswich Museum, Macclesfield Museums, Royal Pavilion & Museums (Brighton & Hove) and Touchstones Rochdale, the exhibition includes the fascinating stories of how such objects reached their current UK homes, supported by outstanding original archival material.

*Two Temple Place is wholly owned by the Bulldog Trust, Registered Charity No 1123081*

**EDITORS' NOTES:** *Beyond Beauty* is curated by Egyptologist Dr Margaret Serpico, with Heba Abd El Gawad, a PhD student in Egyptian Archaeology at Durham University (funded by Helwan University, Cairo) currently researching self-presentation in Ancient Egypt. It has been a long-standing aim of Dr Serpico to create such an exhibition:

*'The desire to unveil the fabulous objects held in these museums was borne out of a long term project to raise awareness of some of the 200 ancient Egyptian collections in the UK, many in regional museums. I have always been amazed by the many wonderful artefacts in these collections, objects that I wished could be seen by wider audiences. This exhibition is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate these collections and appreciate how important it is that we care for and preserve them into the future.'*

Two Temple Place, a magnificent neo-Gothic mansion on London's Victoria Embankment, is owned and run by the charity the Bulldog Trust. Its Winter Exhibition Programme aims to support regional museums across the UK, highlighting the great riches that are to be seen through an annual free exhibition. Chief Executive of the Bulldog Trust, Mary Rose Gunn says:

*"It is an exceptional opportunity for us to be able to champion the stunning Egyptology collections that are held in museums around the UK. We are also looking forward to strengthening cultural ties between Egypt and the UK and are honoured that His Excellency Mr Nasser Kamel, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the UK will be formally opening the exhibition on the 28th January 2016."*

The Winter Exhibition Programme is supported by public funding through Arts Council England. John Orna-Ornstein, Director of Museums, Arts Council England, stated:

*"Museums throughout England are home to some of the most fascinating collections in the world, and through our investments we want to see people enjoy these collections for years to come. 'Beyond Beauty' is an exciting opportunity for people to see some of our finest Egyptian artefacts together in one place, unravelling their mysteries through creative activities for all ages, from storytelling and dance, to lectures and music."*

*Beyond Beauty* will be accompanied by a programme of cultural events for both children and adults including Egyptian folkloric storytelling, lectures, traditional Egyptian music and craft workshops. In February a series of events celebrating modern Egypt will be hosted in collaboration with the Egyptian State Tourist Office. Two Temple Place also continues to offer its extremely popular literacy workshops for KS2 pupils from London Primary Schools.

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