

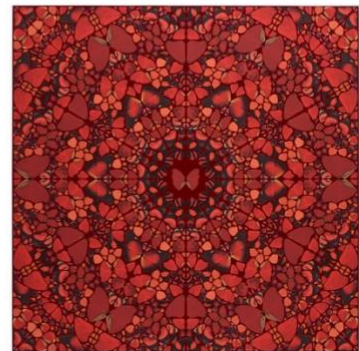
Press Release

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CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Provence



**DAMIEN HIRST TO BE THE FIRST ARTIST TO TAKE
OVER ENTIRE CHÂTEAU LA COSTE ESTATE**

2 March – 23 June 2024

From 2 March until 23 June 2024, Damien Hirst will stage a major exhibition at Château La Coste spanning the 500-acre estate and its five exhibition pavilions designed by some of the world's most renowned architects including Renzo Piano, Oscar Niemeyer and Richard Rogers.

Titled *The Light That Shines*, the presentation will feature sculptures and paintings, including some of Hirst's most iconic series and some which have never been seen before. Throughout his prolific career, Hirst has reflected on the relationships between beauty, religion, science, life, and death. He is perhaps best known for his works employing formaldehyde, which he began in the early nineties. Key pieces from this series, titled 'Natural History', will go on view in the Renzo Piano Pavilion.

The butterfly is another iconic motif which the artist has continually interacted with as a means of exploring these themes. In the Richard Rogers Gallery, and exhibited for the first time, 'The Empress Paintings' use red and black butterfly wings arranged into mesmerising kaleidoscopic-like patterns and are named after powerful female rulers from history.

'Cosmos Paintings' and sculptures from the 'Meteorites' and 'Satellites' series will also be shown for the first time, in the Old Wine Storehouse designed by Jean-Michel Wilmotte. After making the diamond skull *For the Love of God*, and putting a Spot painting on Mars, Hirst started to think about making a show that was not on earth. Inspired by the Hubble Space Telescope's long-exposure images of a dark corner of the sky which revealed billions of stars, he painted canvases black and fixed them to the floor of his studio to overlay with paint. This floor became the 'Cosmos Paintings'.

'Satellites' in bronze capture nostalgia and are loosely based on Degas' bronze casts of his waxes, with Hirst using a Victorian type on their metal information labels to make them look both new and old. A group of these 'Satellites' have also been made of glass, in collaboration with Murano craftsmen. The bronze 'Meteorites', although invented, are reminiscent of meteorites that Hirst has seen in various natural history museums.

In the Oscar Niemeyer Auditorium, sculptures and lightboxes from 'Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable', a series of works that was first shown in 2017 across Punta della Dogana and Palazzo Grassi in Venice, will be exhibited. The artist will also showcase his most recent series, 'The Secret Gardens Paintings', in the Bastide Gallery. Depicting vibrantly coloured flowers, the canvases feature an abstract layer of bright paint splatters.

In addition to the works presented in the pavilions, a selection of outdoor sculptures will be sited across the estate as part of the exhibition, including at Frank Gehry's Music Pavilion and the Tadao Ando Art Centre.

Damien Hirst said: *"It's beyond brilliant what Paddy McKillen has achieved at Château La Coste which is such a wonderful and unique place. I am thrilled and excited to be the first artist to do a takeover show and have my work exhibited across the whole estate, particularly in the mega pavilions designed by Frank Gehry, Oscar Niemeyer and Richard Rogers. Paddy McKillen is a genius and great friend and wonderful human and he makes the most amazing places for people to be. I'm so happy to be a part of Paddy's vision."*

Paddy McKillen, Founder, Château La Coste, said: *"This magnificent show has been an idea for many years. Amid laughs and giggles, chats and cups of tea, great ideas evolved as they do when Damien is his playful self. He has planned out the show to perfection. He has conceived each element to compliment both art and architecture, all set amongst Cezanne's Provençal landscape. His paintings and sculpture, set in our galleries and this nature will come together to create one singular masterpiece. We are proud and honored at Chateau La Coste to host Damien, his amazing team and his life's labor. We welcome everyone to experience Damien in beautiful Provence."*

NOTES TO EDITORS

Exhibition Information

Damien Hirst: *The Light That Shines*

Dates: 2 March – 23 June 2024

Address: Château la Coste, 2750 Route de la Cride, 13610 Le Puy-Sainte-Réparate, France

Website: www.chateau-la-coste.com

About Damien Hirst

Damien Hirst was born in Bristol, England, and lives and works in London and Devon, England. Collections include the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples, Italy; Museum Brandhorst, Munich; Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid; Tate, London; Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, Scotland; National Centre for Contemporary Arts, Moscow; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Art Institute of Chicago; The Broad, Los Angeles; Museo Jumex, Mexico City; and 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan. Exhibitions include *Cornucopia*, Oceanographic Museum of Monaco (2010); Tate Modern, London (2012); *Relics*, Qatar Museums Authority, Al Riwaq (2013); *Signification (Hope, Immortality and Death in Paris, Now and Then)*, Deyrolle, Paris (2014); Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo (2015); *The Last Supper*, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC (2016); *Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable*, Palazzo Grassi and Punta della Dogana, Venice (2017); *Damien Hirst at Houghton Hall: Colour Space Paintings and Outdoor Sculptures*, Houghton Hall, Norfolk, England (2019); *Mental Escapology*, St. Moritz, Switzerland (2021); *Cherry Blossoms*, Fondation Cartier, Paris (2021); and *Archaeology Now*, Galleria Borghese, Rome (2021). Hirst received the Turner Prize in 1995.

About Château La Coste

Situated in one of the oldest winemaking regions of France, between the historic city of Aix-En-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where wine, art and architecture co-exist in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, Château La Coste invites visitors to discover over forty major works of contemporary art installed in the open air and five gallery spaces dotted across the 500-acre site.

Each year artists and architects are invited to visit the domain and discover the unique beauty of this Provençal landscape, with its famed cypresses, stone pines, olive trees and ancient oaks. They are given the freedom to create a site-specific work in an area of the site that inspires them, so Château La Coste continues to evolve as new projects and installations are developed. Artists and architects who have created permanent works at Château La Coste include Frank O. Gehry, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Louise Bourgeois, Richard Rogers, Sophie Calle, Prune Nourry, Tracey Emin and Jean Nouvel.

www.chateau-la-coste.com

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