



FONDATION  
GANDUR  
POUR L'ART

PRESS RELEASE

## FONDATION GANDUR POUR L'ART: FIRST TRAVELING EXHIBITION IN JAPAN

*Geneva (Switzerland), 16 April 2015* – The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art will open its first traveling exhibition in Japan on 17 April at the *Asahikawa Museum of Art*, in Hokkaido. The exhibition will run until 21 June before continuing its journey to three more Japanese cities, including Tokyo.

The special loan exhibition, *Ancient Egyptian Art and Magic, Treasures from the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art*, presents 150 works of art drawn from the Foundation's archaeological collection, some of which are on view for the first time. The works span the four millennia history of pharaonic Egypt from the predynastic through to the ptolemaic periods.

Jean Claude Gandur, founder and Chairman of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, explains: "The objects exhibited were selected for both aesthetic and didactic reasons. As always, our aim is to help the public understand and appreciate the ancient Egyptian civilisation and the significant contribution that civilisations like these have made to our societies."

The exhibition stresses the central role of magic in furthering our understanding of the nature of ancient Egyptian art. It is organised around three themes: hieroglyphs, materials and colour. All three elements symbolically reinforce each object's function. Together, the works of art reflect the ancient Egyptian world view of a cosmos in which human beings, animals and plants are harmoniously integrated.

Japan is the third country to host a significant traveling exhibition from the archaeological collection of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art, after Switzerland and the United States, and before France in June (at the MUCEM in Marseille). The exhibition is accompanied by a bi-lingual catalogue, in Japanese and English, written by Dr Robert Steven Bianchi, chief curator and curator of the archaeology collection of the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art.

### **About the Fondation Gandur pour l'Art:**

The Fondation Gandur pour l'Art was founded in Geneva by Swiss art collector and entrepreneur Jean Claude Gandur in 2010 with the aim of conserving, enriching and exhibiting the collections developed for over 40 years. Its mission includes making the collections available to museums, the academic world and the general public. Reflecting Jean Claude Gandur's conviction that culture should be accessible to all, the Foundation encourages access to art through temporary exhibitions, loans, online access and, more recently, the publication of reference catalogues. The Foundation has also developed a number of partnerships, notably with Geneva's Art and History Museum (Switzerland), the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL – Switzerland) and the National Museum Centre for Arts Reina Sofia (Spain). The Foundation strictly adheres to the code of ethics established by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

The Foundation's collections cover three distinct areas: an archaeology collection with over 1,000 works of art from Ancient Egypt, Greece, Rome and the Near East; a collection with more than 600 European paintings spanning from 1940 to 1970, considered as the most important one after the great Paris and London museums; a decorative arts collection with over 400 pieces, including decorative objects and pieces of art from the twelfth to the eighteenth century, as well as furniture by master cabinetmakers from the eighteenth century.

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