

Sculptures from the New York Met to be reproduced and exhibited at Périgord

ACT 1 OF A PRESTIGIOUS COLLABORATION



Crédit Photo: Gus Powell

Two 16th-century sculptures have been on display at **The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met) in New York** since 1908.

Thanks to advances in technology, the Met Imaging Department has been able to provide faithful digital copies of these jewels of French Renaissance art. Physical reconstructions from this data will be produced using 3D technology by the Atelier des Fac-Similés du Périgord, already known for reproducing the Lascaux cave for the Lascaux International Center of Parietal Art.

These new replicas will be installed at the Château de Biron in the chapel for which they were originally produced.

The facsimiles will be produced in the next few months thanks to an exceptional partnership that began 70 years ago and was sealed in February between The Met – one of the world greatest museums - the county of Dordogne in France and Semitour Périgord, manager at the Château.

Through Semitour, the leading tourist company in the Dordogne, the Atelier des Fac -similés du Périgord will reproduce **two imposing sculptures created by an anonymous artist, dated 1504 or 1515, featuring biblical scenes entitled Christ's Entombment and Pietà with Donors**, captured by The Met Imaging Department.

These works were housed at the chapel of the Château de Biron for nearly 400 years in the south of Dordogne, on the borders of the Périgord and Agenais regions. Standing on a natural promontory, this monumental edifice is made up of buildings from different periods, the oldest of which, like its keep, date back to the 12th century.

Destroyed, rebuilt and renovated over the centuries, the castle has belonged to the Dordogne region since 1978, making it a major tourist and cultural site.

The agreement between The Met and Périgord assures that the replicas will be shaped in the Dordogne with 3D technology, where a digital cast will be made so that there's no need to move or disturb the originals.

"We can now use non -invasive techniques to make a digital cast," said Ringenbach, whose aim is to make simple and identical replicas.

As well as using these contemporary techniques, "90% of the artistic work will be devoted to reproducing the wear and tear of time", such as the patina on the ageing limestone originals of these exceptionally well - preserved statues.



Crédit Photo: Gus Powell



Crédit Photo: Gus Powell



Crédit Photo: Gus Powell

Seeing these facsimiles for the first time will be a very emotional experience for visitors: *"Millions feel moved when they go down into the replica of Lascaux IV, the same emotional stirrings as 1963 when we went down into the real prehistoric site, which was closed 60 years ago in order to preserve it. Similarly, those feelings you get when you stand before the originals at The Met in New York will be exact replicas of those you experience upon encountering the duplicate sculptures at the Château de Biron."* Sébastien Cailler, manager of the Château de Biron.

Found by historians, collectors and art dealers at the end of the 18th century, the sculptures Entombment of Christ and Pietà with Donors were sold in 1907 by the last Marquis of Biron to the wealthy American banker, John Pierpont Morgan, who was the president of the board of The Met at the time. Morgan loaned them to the Museum, where they were displayed starting in 1908.

In 1953, the Dordogne and the Château de Biron began conversations with The Met requesting casts of the sculptures to be made. The conversation resumed in 2018, when the Périgord resumed contact and, following some initial testing of the technology in 2022, the agreement was signed in New York on 15 February.

C. Griffith Mann, Michel David-Weill Curator in Charge of Medieval Art at the Met, stated: *"The sculptures are an important part of the history of the Château de Biron and The Met, and we are pleased that these latest technological advances will allow audiences in both France and New York to view these sculptures"*.



Crédit Photo: Déclic 1 Décolle

A PROPOS DE LA SEMITOUR

La Semitour Périgord est une société chargée de l'exploitation de sites d'hébergement et d'animation en Dordogne (campings et villages de gîtes), de l'Atelier des Fac-similés du Périgord, ainsi que de la gestion des sites et monuments patrimoniaux suivants :

- PRÉHISTOIRE : Le Centre International de l'Art Pariétal, Lascaux II, Parc du Thot, les Abris de Laugerie Basse
- GEOLOGIE : La Grotte du Grand Roc
- CHÂTEAUX : Les Châteaux de Biron et Bourdeilles
- CLOÎTRE de Cadouin

Plus d'informations
<https://www.semitour.com/fr/presse>

CONTACT PRESSE
Clémence DJOUDI
c.djoudi@semitour.com
Tél : 06 40 91 65 53