The Veronica Scanner: Live 3D Portraiture
2 – 11 September 2016
Weston Rooms, Burlington House

WADDESDON
Rothschild Collections

The Royal Academy of Arts in partnership with Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Conservation and the Rothschild Foundation will present *The Veronica Scanner: Live 3D Portraiture* to UK audiences for ten days only in London, from 2 – 11 September 2016, and Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire from 22 – 30 October 2016.

During this experiment, visitors will not only be able to watch as members of the public are scanned, processed, printed and carved into three-dimensional portrait busts in real time, but they will also have the opportunity to book a place to have their own digital portrait scan taken by the innovative Veronica Scanner. From Pygmalion falling for his own sculpture in Greek mythology to the rise of photography in the nineteenth century as a new way to record facial features, visual art has always sought to reproduce a true likeness between image and form. This new interactive project at the RA celebrates the next stage in this story, the art of 3D photogrammetry in the twenty-first century.

The Veronica Chorographic Scanner, designed by contemporary artist Manuel Franquelo Giner, and built by Factum Arte, is a bespoke 3D head scanner showcasing the emerging technologies behind high-resolution composite photography and photogrammetry. *Vera* translates as 'true', from Latin and *Eikōn* means 'icon' or 'image', from Greek, resulting in the name 'Veronica'. Using eight cameras to record a complete head within a 50 x 50 x 50cm range, the Scanner is designed to capture and map the fine surface detail of the human face. This results in 96 high-resolution photographs of the subject from every angle which can then be processed into a digital 3D model. The machine takes 4 seconds to complete the recording and, whilst on display, will scan 40 people per day. The resulting images can then be rematerialised as a physical bust through 3D printing and CNC milling. As part of the project, a highly specialised robot, lent from the Bartlett School of Architecture (University College London), will carve one of the 40 scans a day into a wooden bust. A group of 3D printers, provided by iMakr, will also print busts in real time and data processing and 3D modelling will be done on site. As the 3D models are processed, they will be uploaded to an online virtual gallery which will be accessible to the public.

Visitors who wish to be scanned will need to pre-book their scanning appointment. In the following days they will receive an electronic file containing their 3D portrait. *The Veronica Scanner: Live 3D Portraiture* will be open to members of the public who can view the portraiture live in action, as well as the additional display of a series of other bust sculptures which the scanner has created, alongside complementary material and texts tracing the development and possibilities of photography

as a tool for sculpture. The project space has been designed by RIBA award-winning architect, Charlotte Skene Catling of Skene Catling de la Peña.

Recent projects produced by Factum Foundation include a scan of Tutankhamun's tomb in Luxor, Egypt, a re-materialised copy of Caravaggio's *Nativity with Saint Francis and Saint Lawrence* in Palermo, Italy and other cultural heritage recordings in Daghestan, Jordan, Lebanon, England, USA, France and Italy. Factum Arte, the workshop in Madrid from which the Foundation emerged, have worked with a number of artists including Royal Academicians Anish Kapoor, Grayson Perry, Conrad Shawcross and Gillian Wearing.

The Veronica Scanner: Live 3D Portraiture will tour to Waddesdon Manor from Saturday 22 – Sunday 30 October 2016.

Tim Marlow, Artistic Director at the Royal Academy of Arts, said: 'The relationship between art and technology is a long, complex and fruitful one. We are delighted to be collaborating with Waddesdon Manor and Factum Foundation on such a visionary project.'

Lord Rothschild, Chairman of the Rothschild Foundation, which manages Waddesdon Manor, said: 'We are very pleased to be collaborating with the Royal Academy and Factum Foundation on this innovative project, which explores the most cutting-edge new technology and its application in art and conservation. We are particularly excited to host the Veronica Scanner at Waddesdon, a house renowned for portraits and exceptional craftsmanship – both of which are celebrated through this exhibition.'

Adam Lowe, Director at Factum Arte, said: 'We think of photographs as images but this odyssey into 3D portraiture demonstrates that they can also be sculptures. The dream of the Greek sculptors was to create a realism that went beyond subjective interpretation. The Veronica Scanner was originally developed for use with anti-ageing treatments but it is finding its application in portraiture and conservation. In this experimental workshop we will push its capabilities to the limit and build bridges between 3D recording and the emerging world of 3D output - both additive and subtractive. We are thrilled that both the RA and the Rothschild Foundation have reacted so quickly to bring this emerging technology to the public in a spirit of experimentation and curiosity.'

Dates and Opening Hours

Open to the public:	Friday 2 – Sunday 11 September 2016
	10am – 6pm daily (last viewing admission 5.40pm)
Late night opening:	Fridays until 10pm (last viewing admission 9.40pm)

Tickets and Admission
Please note a limited number of tickets are available for visitors to be scanned by *The Veronica Scanner* and must be pre-booked in advance.
To be scanned, tickets are £16.50 (£15 excluding Gift Aid donation) and available online at www.royalacademy.org.uk
To view the display, admission is free.

Images
Publicity images for *The Veronica Scanner: Live 3D Portraiture* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.picselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

Organisation
The Veronica Scanner: Live 3D Portraiture has been organised through a partnership between the Royal Academy of Arts, Factum Foundation and the Rothschild Foundation.

Robot and robot supervision provided and operated by the Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL). 3D printers provided and operated by iMakr (MyMiniFactory). Software for processing on site provided by Capturing Reality. Software for cloud processing, Ember: Precision Desktop 3D Printer and virtual online gallery provided by Autodesk.

Waddesdon Manor 22 – 30 October 2016. Admission £10 (child £5). Free for National Trust and Art Fund members. Opening hours 11am – 5pm, daily. Please note a limited number of tickets are available for visitors to be scanned by *The Veronica Scanner* to pre-book online www.waddesdon.org.uk

About Waddesdon Manor
Waddesdon Manor was built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild from 1874 to display his outstanding collection of arts and to entertain the fashionable world. It combines the highest quality 18th-century French decorative arts, magnificent English portraits and Dutch Old Master paintings with one of the finest Victorian gardens in Britain, famous for its parterre and ornate working Aviary. Bequeathed to the National Trust in 1957, Waddesdon is managed by the Rothschild Foundation on behalf of the National Trust. Additional information is available at www.waddesdon.org.uk

About The Rothschild Foundation
The Rothschild Foundation is a UK charity chaired by Lord Rothschild. In addition to its ongoing commitment to Waddesdon Manor, it supports a number of arts and cultural projects across the UK and a broader programme of charitable initiatives local to Waddesdon. The Foundation promotes research, outreach and debate across all its areas of interest. Additional information is available at www.rothschildfoundation.org.uk

About Factum Foundation
Factum Foundation was founded in 2009. It grew out of the experimental work of Factum Arte's workshops in Madrid. Factum Arte is committed to developing new technologies and building bridges between digital mediation and traditional craft skills in the creation of contemporary works of art for many artists from around the world. Factum Foundation is devoted to applying these technologies to the preservation of cultural heritage and to the dissemination of the important role technology to deepen our understanding of the importance of the artefacts of the past. Additional information is available at http://www.factumfoundation.org

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III of England in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programmes promote the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting and revitalising the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public the historic treasures in its Collection, the work of its Academicians and the RA Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. For more information on the RA visit www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video

Social Media

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

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#veronicascanner

For further press information, please contact the RA Press Office on 020 7300 5615 or press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

For public information, please print 020 7300 8090 or www.royalacademy.org.uk

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