

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 BST WEDNESDAY, 29 AUGUST 2018

Wedding outfits of TRH The Duke and Duchess of Sussex to go on display at Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse

The wedding outfits of The Duke and Duchess of Sussex will go on display at Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh in 2018 and 2019 respectively in a special exhibition ***A Royal Wedding: The Duke and Duchess of Sussex***.

The Duchess of Sussex's wedding dress was created by the British designer Clare Waight Keller, Artistic Director at the historic French fashion house Givenchy. The Duchess chose Ms Waight Keller for her timeless and elegant aesthetic, and for the impeccable tailoring of her creations. The Duchess and Ms Waight Keller worked closely together on the design.

The dress is made from an exclusive double-bonded silk cady, developed by Ms Waight Keller following extensive research in fabric mills throughout Europe. True to the heritage of the House of Givenchy, the graceful lines of the dress were achieved using six meticulously placed seams. These extend towards the back of the dress, where the train flows in soft round folds cushioned by an underskirt in triple silk organza. One of the main features of the dress is the boat neckline bodice.

The five-metre-long veil is made from silk tulle and embroidered with the flora of the 53 countries of the Commonwealth, a reference to an important part of The Duke and Duchess's official work following His Royal Highness's appointment as Commonwealth Youth Ambassador. The Duchess added two of her favourite flowers to the embroidered decoration: Wintersweet (*Chimonanthus praecox*), which grows in the grounds of Kensington Palace in front of Nottingham Cottage, and the California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), the State flower of The Duchess's place of birth, California. Embroidered ears of wheat, symbolising love and charity, are symmetrically placed at the front of the veil, which is edged with embroidered organza flowers. It took the team of embroiderers hundreds of hours to create the design, washing their hands every 30 minutes to keep the tulle and threads pristine.

The Duchess's veil was held in place by a diamond and platinum bandeau tiara, lent to her by Her Majesty The Queen. On public display for the first time, the tiara is formed as a flexible band of eleven sections, pavé set with large and small brilliant diamonds in a geometric design. The centre is set with a detachable brooch of ten brilliant diamonds. The bandeau was made in 1932 for Her Majesty's grandmother, Queen Mary, and specifically designed to accommodate the centre brooch. This brooch was given to the then Princess Mary in 1893 by the County of Lincoln on her marriage to Prince George,

Duke of York (the future King George V). The bandeau and the brooch were bequeathed to Her Majesty by Queen Mary in 1953.

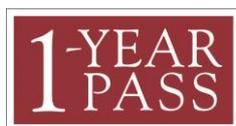
The Duke of Sussex's wedding outfit was the frockcoat uniform of the Household Cavalry (the 'Blues and Royals'), specially commissioned for the occasion and made by tailors at Dege & Skinner on Savile Row. The uniform's single-breasted blue doeskin jacket has figured braiding of Regimental pattern on the stand-up collar and sleeves. It is ranked to Major with large gold embroidered crowns on the epaulettes. The trousers, officially called 'overalls', are made from a blue and black wool barathea and are fastened by a leather strap and buckle underneath the boot. The Duke has loaned an identical uniform to go on display.

Following the displays, Royal Collection Trust will make a donation to the Royal Foundation. Further announcements on the exhibition will be made in due course.

Ends

A Royal Wedding: The Duke and Duchess of Sussex is part of a visit to Windsor Castle from 26 October 2018 to 6 January 2019 and part of a visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse from 14 June to 6 October 2019.

To book tickets for guaranteed entry at Windsor Castle or visitor information, please visit www.royalcollection.org.uk or telephone +44 (0)303 123 7300. Tickets for the Palace of Holyroodhouse will be available from 1 November 2018.



Enjoy free re-admission for a year by asking us to treat your ticket purchase as a donation.

A selection of images is available from www.picselect.com. For further information, please contact the Royal Collection Trust Press Office, T. +44 (0)303 123 7304, press@rct.uk

Notes to Editors

Royal Collection Trust, a department of the Royal Household, is responsible for the care of the Royal Collection and manages the public opening of the official residences of The Queen. Income generated from admissions and from associated commercial activities contributes directly to The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of The Trust are the care and conservation of the Royal Collection, and the promotion of access and enjoyment through exhibitions, publications, loans and educational programmes. Royal Collection Trust's work is undertaken without public funding of any kind.

The Royal Collection is among the largest and most important art collections in the world, and one of the last great European royal collections to remain intact. It comprises almost all aspects of the fine and decorative arts, and is spread among some 15 royal residences and former residences across the UK, most of which are regularly open to the public. The Royal Collection is held in trust by the Sovereign for her successors and the nation, and is not owned by The Queen as a private individual.

Admission to Windsor Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse is managed by The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity in England and Wales (1016972) and in Scotland (SCO39772).