

SOMERSET HOUSE PRESS RELEASE

TINTIN

HERGÉ'S MASTERPIECE



© Hergé-Moullinsart 2015

12 November 2015 – 31 January 2016
Terrace Rooms, Somerset House, London
Free entry

An exhibition examining the man – Belgian artist-author Hergé – and his masterpiece – Tintin, one of the world's best-loved comic characters

This winter, Somerset House is proud to present **TINTIN: Hergé's Masterpiece**. Stepping inside the wonderfully eccentric world of artist-author Hergé and Tintin, his intrepid young reporter, the exhibition will explore the evolution of the artwork of Hergé, from the simplicity of early newspaper strips to the genre-defining graphic work of the later books. Drawing on the archives of the Hergé Museum in Belgium, **TINTIN: Hergé's Masterpiece** will feature pencil sketches, character drawings, and watercolours alongside original artwork from the finished stories.

The exhibition will also reveal more about the man behind the masterpiece. Hergé had an enduring fascination with architecture and design. With his skill as an illustrator and a draughtsman's eye for design, the settings in which the stories were played out were always rendered in meticulous detail. Models/installations of **memorable locations such as Tintin's apartment** will be displayed and the exhibition will be themed with reference to one of **Hergé's favourite backdrops - Marlinspike Hall, Captain Haddock's country house** once owned by his maritime ancestor, Sir Francis Haddock. With a similar neoclassical splendour and nautical history as the former home of the Navy Board and office of Lord Nelson, Somerset House makes a compelling site **from which to share Hergé's own story**.

Since he first appeared in Hergé's weekly cartoon strip in *Le Petit Vingtième* in Brussels in 1929, Tintin has become one of the most iconic comic-strip heroes along with a supporting cast of his trusty dog Snowy, Captain Haddock, Professor Calculus, and Thomson and Thompson. With more than **200 million copies of the famous 24 'albums'** sold worldwide which also recently inspired a Hollywood blockbuster, Hergé's timeless character continues to attract new generations of fans to his stories for their unique mixture of artistry, history and adventure.

TINTIN: Hergé's Masterpiece will coincide with the release of a book of the same name, published by Rizzoli priced at £35.

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Notes to Editors

For press enquiries and images, please contact Stephanie Lilley on press@somersethouse.org.uk or 0207 845 4624.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Dates: 12 November 2015 – 31 January 2016

Opening Hours: Daily, 10.00 – 18.00 with late night openings on Thursdays and Fridays until 21.00. Times are sometimes subject to change, please check the website for full details in advance of visits.

Admission: Free

Address: Terrace Rooms, Somerset House, London, WC2R 1LA

Transport: ☉ Temple, Embankment 🚶 Charing Cross, Waterloo

Somerset House Facebook: www.facebook.com/SomersetHouse

Somerset House Twitter: @SomersetHouse

Somerset House Instagram: @somersethouselondon

Exhibition Hashtag: #TINTINexhibition

Somerset House public enquiries: 020 7845 4600

About Somerset House

Somerset House is a unique part of the London cultural scene, a historic building within which surprising and original work comes to life. From its 18th century origins, it has been a centre for debate and discussion – an intellectual powerhouse for the nation. Today, Somerset House is a key cultural destination in London in which to experience a broad range of artistic activity, engage with artists, designers and makers and be a part of a major creative forum – an environment that is relaxed, welcoming to all and inspirational to visit while providing a stimulating workplace for the cultural and creative industries. Since its opening in 2000, Somerset House has built up a distinctive outdoor public programme including Skate, concerts, an open-air film season and a diverse range of temporary exhibitions throughout the site focusing on contemporary culture including photography, fashion, architecture and design, with an extensive integrated learning programme. We currently attract well over 2 million visitors every year. It is probably the biggest community of creative organisations in London including The Courtauld Gallery and Institute of Art, **King's College London** Cultural Institute and over 100 other creative businesses.

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