



FACTUM arte



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Exact facsimile of the Tomb of Tutankhamun installed in Luxor – official opening on the 30th April

The exact facsimile of the Tomb of Tutankhamun has been installed underground in a building next to Carter's House, at the entrance to the Valley of the Kings and is due to be officially opened on 30th April 2014. The public opening will be 1st May 2014.

The facsimile, made by Factum Arte, Madrid is the most accurate large-scale facsimile to be made to date. This is the culmination of many years work and is an important milestone in the approach to responsible heritage management and the use of advanced technology in the promotion of sustainable tourism. It has been made with the full support of the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism, the Minister of State for Antiquities and with the backing of the European Union. The facsimile is a gift to the people of Egypt from Factum Foundation. It is housed in an underground building designed by the Tarek Waly Centre: Heritage and Architecture, Cairo.

The work has involved the development of advanced 3D technologies for recording the tombs and perfecting the method to replicate them. It is the first stage of a larger project that involves the creation of facsimiles of the Tombs of Seti I and Nefertari – both currently closed to the general public.

The need for a facsimile:

The Tomb of Tutankhamun was hidden for over 3,000 years, but since its discovery in 1922 it has rapidly deteriorated - not due to neglect but rather because it was not built to accommodate the vast numbers of people who visit each day; in 2011 it was announced by the Supreme Council of Antiquities that the original tomb must be closed for conservation reasons. The original tomb is currently open giving visitors a unique opportunity to visit both it and the facsimile and compare the experience. The facsimile is part of an initiative to safeguard the tombs of the Theban Necropolis that are either closed to the public for conservation reasons or are in need of closure to preserve them for future generations.

The facsimile of the Tomb of Tutankhamun will give visitors an opportunity to understand the history of the tomb since its discovery, encourage conservation of the original site and establish Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities as a world leader supporting the use of high-resolution documentation to monitor the condition of the tombs.

The gift and installation of the facsimile has very specific objects:

- To promote a positive and sustainable approach to tourism - and to encourage an awareness that sustainable tourism can be a positive force in the conservation of Egypt's cultural heritage
- To facilitate the transfer of technology and skills to set up workshops on Luxor's West Bank for recording and production of facsimiles of the tombs of Seti I and Queen Nefertari
- To create long term skilled jobs in Luxor

END



"The gift of the facsimile is a metaphor for the relationship between Europe and Egypt - the skills and technology that have been developed in Europe to create the facsimile are going to be transferred to Egypt where the local workers will be trained and those very skills and technology will become Egyptian"
Baroness Ashton, EU High Representative on the occasion of giving the facsimile of the Tomb of Tutankhamun to Egypt; November 14th 2012, Cairo.

Adam Lowe, Founder and Director of Factum Arte, comments *"As the number of cultural tourists increases, more people are becoming aware that each visit to a heritage site leads to its decay - we want to turn that awareness around and make each visit a positive story not just for the original but also for the visitor. We can do this by using exact facsimiles that allow an experience of the original while at the same time preserving it and providing funds to make sure the site is maintained."*

James Macmillan-Scott, President of Factum Foundation, said *"This is an seminal project both in relation to the preservation of our cultural heritage but also in the understanding and acceptance that advances in technology have, for the first time, made it possible to preserve that heritage through high resolution digital recording and, where appropriate, the creation of exact facsimiles."*

QUOTES END

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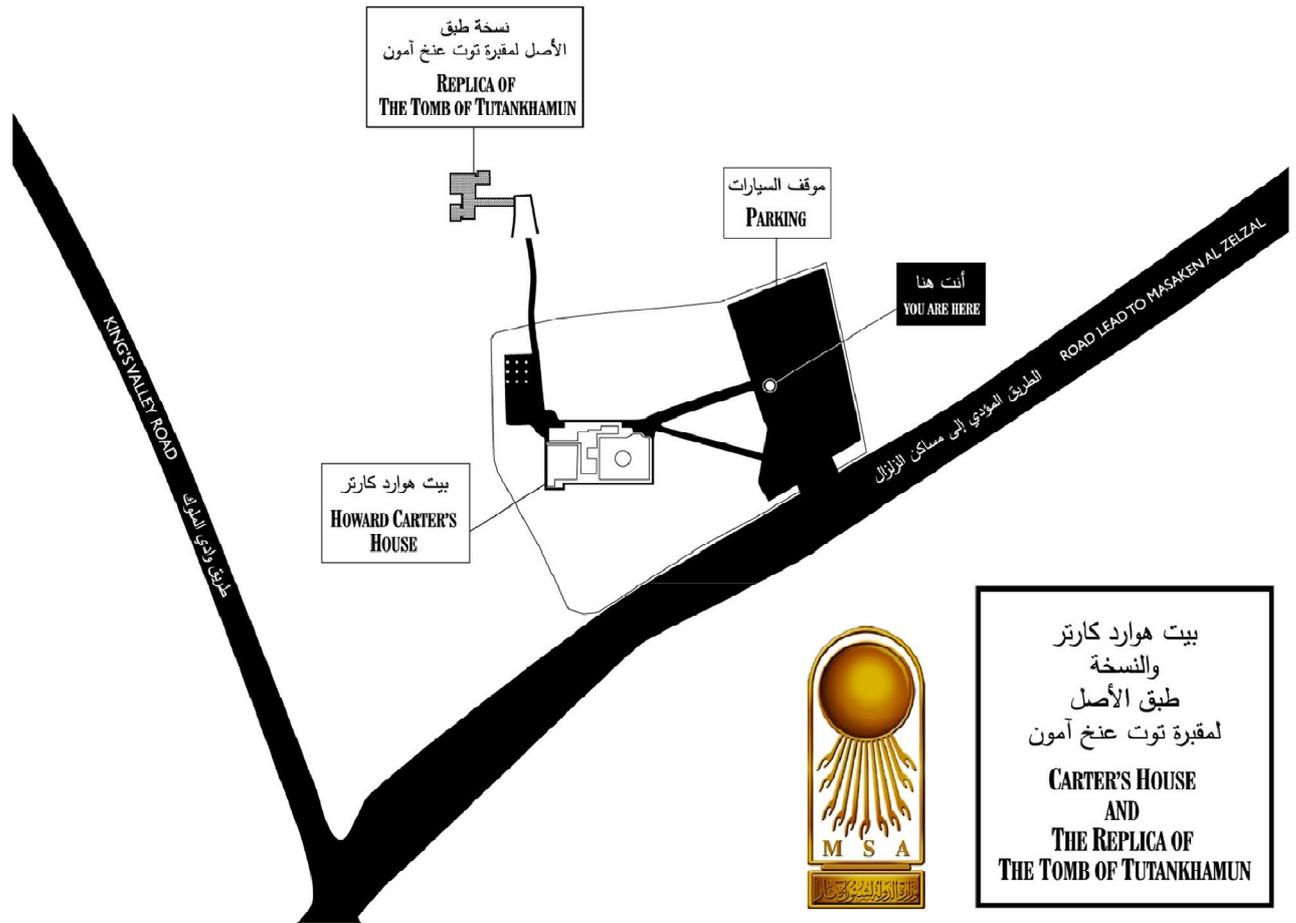
For access to **Press Releases** and **images** (low resolution for selection) please go to:

<http://www.factumfoundation.org/Media>

NOTES TO EDITORS

- The facsimile has been installed in Valley of Kings adjacent to the Carter House - below ground.
- Funding for recording, development and construction is entirely from outside Egypt
Key aims of the gift are to:
 - Promote sustainable tourism which can finance conservation and preservation.
 - Transfer technology & skills to an Egyptian team
 - Create long term local employment on the West Bank, Luxor
- The facsimile will be accompanied by an exhibition about the tomb, its contents and the reason it looks as it does today. The exhibition was completed by Jaromir Malek (formerly Director of the Griffith Institute, University of Oxford) and Nicholas Reeves (Lila Acheson Wallace Associate Curator of Egyptian Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Formerly a Curator at The British Museum and Curator to the seventh Earl of Carnarvon at Highclere Castle)
- Factum Foundation and the Society of Friends of the Royal Tombs of Egypt are focused on preservation of cultural heritage
- The original idea to build a facsimile was championed by The Society of the Friends of the Royal Tombs of Egypt, Zurich in 1988. The society and the Swiss Embassy have given logistical and practical assistance
- The shipping and installation of the replica to Egypt was facilitated by the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of State for Antiquities and the Egyptian Tourist Authority. Past Preservers acted as local organisers

The location of the Replica of the Tomb of Tutankhamun adjacent to the Carter House.



ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

A brief history of the project and key data

The work undertaken in the Tomb of Tutankhamun is an initiative that was first suggested in 1988 by the Society of Friends of the Royal Tombs of Egypt. Factum Arte's involvement began in 2001 with a research project approved by Dr. Gaballah Gaballah to develop the techniques to accurately scan the tomb of Seti I. In 2002 an exact facsimile of Thutmosis III was produced by Factum Arte for a touring exhibition. This facsimile demonstrated the level of accuracy that was possible when the application of technology was mixed with high levels of manual and mechanical skill. In 2009 the recording of the tomb of Tutankhamun began on the instruction of Dr. Zahi Hawass and with the support of the Supreme Council of Antiquities who have long supported the idea of building replicas of the tombs that are closed to the public or in need of closure for their preservation. The finished facsimile was given to the people of Egypt in November 2012 by Baroness Ashton on behalf of the European Union. The decision to install the facsimile on the site next to Carter's House was taken by the Minister for Antiquities, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim in 2013.

A full account of the project can be read at the following links:

www.factum-arte.com and www.factumfoundation.org

Facsimile dimensions:

Tomb 405 x 640 x 330cm with ceiling: made in sections. Total weight approx. 3,330kg

Sarcophagus: 276 (long) x 162 (high) x 148cm (wide). Weight approx 300kg.

Sarcophagus lid: 250 x 125 x 25cm (at highest point). Weight approx 80kg.

The 'missing' fragment: 145 x 240 x 7cm. Weight approx 30kg

