



## News Release

### Martin Roth to leave the V&A in Autumn 2016

5 September 2016

Martin Roth, Director of the V&A since September 2011, has announced to staff today he will leave his role in the Autumn after five years in post.

Martin has presided over a succession of critically acclaimed exhibitions, most notably *David Bowie is* and *Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty*, achieving record visitor numbers, which last year reached the highest level in the Museum's 150 year history – as well as the ambitious refurbishment of multiple galleries showcasing the V&A's world-leading collections, including most recently the new Europe 1600-1815 galleries. He has also overseen major developments including construction of the new Exhibition Road entrance, courtyard and gallery, due to open in 2017, as well as developing significant strategic partnerships in Shenzhen, Dundee and with V&A East in the Queen Elizabeth Park, East London.

Under his directorship, Martin has established the new Design, Architecture and Digital Department, and spearheaded new and socially responsive programming, from the *Disobedient Objects* exhibition to the current Engineering Season. He has also forged many innovative new partnerships, not least with the Venice Biennale, World Economic Forum and International Olympic Committee. The Museum was recently awarded Art Fund Museum of the Year 2016, the biggest museum prize in the world, and praised for its 'exceptional imagination, innovation and achievement across the previous 12 months.'

Martin Roth said: "*It's been an enormous privilege and tremendously exciting to lead this great museum, with its outstanding staff and collections, and I'm proud to have steered it to new successes and a period of growth and expansion, including new partnerships around the UK and internationally. Our recent accolade as Art Fund Museum of the Year feels like the perfect moment to draw to a close my mission in London and hand over to a new director to take the V&A forward to an exciting future.*"

Nicholas Coleridge, Chairman of the Trustees of the V&A said: "*Martin's tenure as Director has been marked by a highly successful period of creativity, expansion and reorganisation of the V&A. He has made a significant contribution to the success of this museum, and the Trustees are immensely grateful for all that he has achieved here. We are now starting the process of looking*

*for someone to take on the role and are fortunate to have an exceptional team in place to lead its activities and help build its future with the new Director.”*

Martin intends to devote more time to various international cultural consultancies and plans to spend more time with his wife Harriet and their children, in Berlin and Vancouver.

The V&A’s Board of Trustees will now begin the search to find a new Director.

**- ENDS -**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### ***Biography***

Martin Roth (61) has been Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum since September 2011.

Before joining the V&A, he was Director General of the Dresden State Art Collections (Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden), overseeing 12 museums and galleries. From 1996 to 2001 Martin Roth was a member of the senior management of the Expo 2000 in Hanover and Director of Thematic Exhibitions. He was President of the German Museums Association from 1995 to 2003, and a member of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Advisory Board in Berlin until his relocation to London in 2011. From 1991 to 2000 he was Director of the German Hygiene Museum in Dresden, the first German science museum, and prior to that he was Curator at the Deutsche Historische Museum (1989-2001). He is a member of the Culture Committee of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Martin Roth is a Trustee of the British Council and of the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. He is a member of both the Council of the Royal College of Art and the Court of Imperial College in London.

After completing his PhD on the History of Museums and Cultural Politics in the Weimar Republic and the Third Reich at the Eberhard Karls University in Tuebingen in 1987, Martin Roth became a researcher at the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme, E.H.E.S.S. in Paris. Following this, in 1992, he became a visiting scholar at the Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.

### ***About the V&A***

The V&A is the world’s leading museum of art and design with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. It was established to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, the V&A’s collections, which span over 5000 years

of human creativity in virtually every medium and from many parts of the world, continue to intrigue, inspire and inform.

The V&A was awarded The Art Fund Museum of the Year 2016 this summer in recognition of its achievements in 2015 in which it attracted nearly 3.9 million visitors to its sites, 14.5 million visitors online and 90,000 V&A Members, the highest in the museum's 164-year history.

The Museum is working on a number of partnerships and initiatives in order to expand access to our collections and expertise. V&A Museum of Design Dundee (opening 2018) will be an international centre of design for Scotland to which the V&A is bringing content from our world class collections and exhibition programme, museum expertise and name and brand.

V&A East is part of the new cultural and educational district planned for Stratford Waterfront in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, East London. The seven-storey building will be a brand new space for people to gather to understand, interrogate and explore the designed world. It will use the V&A's collections and expertise to provide fast, enlightening responses to current affairs, and will be a place to encounter objects in new ways; to play, make, debate and take part as well as to think, relax and be entertained.

The V&A is also collaborating with China Merchants Shekou Holdings to establish a new world class programme and platform dedicated to design, the first of its kind between a UK museum and a Chinese partner. The collaboration comprises the provision of professional advice and training; the concept, development and design of a V&A Gallery devoted to 20th and 21st century international design; and the presentation of two major touring exhibitions in 2017 and 2018.

[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

**For further PRESS information please contact the V&A press office on +44 (0) 20 7942 2502 or email [press.office@vam.ac.uk](mailto:press.office@vam.ac.uk) (not for publication).**

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