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Ramses the Great's coffin confirmed

to travel to Australia for exclusive Sydney exhibition this summer In an extraordinary loan from Egypt, the ornate sarcophagus of the Pharaoh will be on display at the Australian Museum

Written by Alannah Le Cross Wednesday 25 October 2023



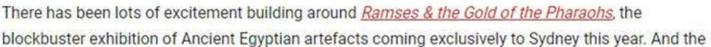
sure to level up the spectacle when it opens on November 18.











On October 24, it was revealed that the actual sarcophagus of Ramses II - one of the most impressive royal coffins from ancient Egypt ever to be discovered - will be travelling to Australia for the upcoming exhibition. Exclusive to the Australian Museum and on direct loan from Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, Ramses' coffin is rarely permitted to leave Egypt. Sydney will become only the second city in the world, after Paris, to showcase the extremely valuable artefact.

Australian Museum just dropped another announcement about the upcoming cultural event that is

McKay continues: "Ramses' coffin is a work of inestimable value and a powerful symbol of one of the

fragile artefact in real life".

Photograph: Supplied/Australian Museum | The coffin of Ramses the Great

Ramses II can be seen through the craftsmanship of the coffin." Dating from the late Eighteenth Dynasty, the carved cedar coffin of Ramses II and its occupant was discovered in 1811 within the Royal Cache at Deir el-Bahari – an Egyptian archaeological site located

on the west bank of the Nile River, opposite the city of Luxor and east of the Valley of the Kings. The

recumbent king is represented as Osiris, one of the most important gods of ancient Egypt. Arms

crossed on his chest, he holds two royal sceptres and wears the Nemes headdress decorated with

the coffin - on its lid, two large cartouches recall his birth name of "Ramses, beloved of Amun" and

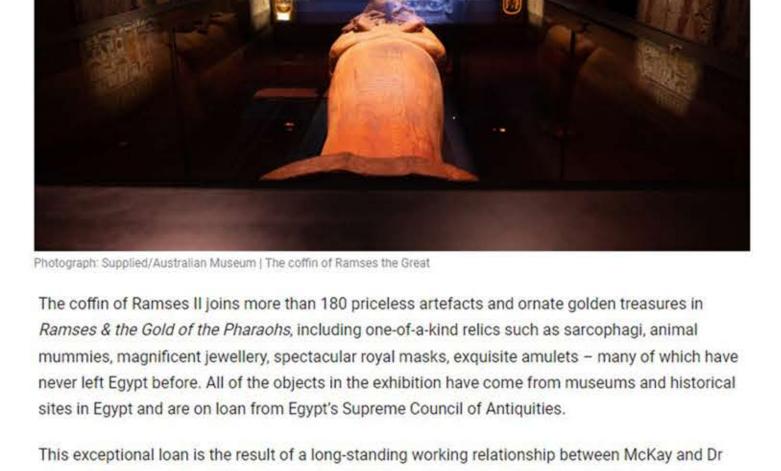
the erect cobra and a false beard braided beneath his chin. A number of inscriptions can be found on

greatest leaders of the ancient world. Egyptians worshipped their Pharaohs, and their devotion to

Australian Museum Director and CEO, Kim McKay, said the sarcophagus will be the "star attraction"

of the exhibition, and it will be "a wonderful opportunity for Australian audiences to see this rare,

throne name "Powerful is the Maat of Ra, he whom Ra has chosen".



We reckon this remarkable addition certainly gives Sydney's Egyptian blockbuster show an edge over Pharoah, the other big Ancient Egypt exhibition heading to Melbourne in 2024. (But that could just be our fierce inter-city rivalry - which runs as relentlessly as the River Nile - talking?)

Calling all amateur Egyptologists, we've rounded up everything else we know about Ramses & the

Zahi Hawass, the curator of Ramses & the Gold of the Pharaohs and the former head of Egypt's

Supreme Council of Antiquities, as well as the exhibition partners, Neon Global and World Heritage

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