

Madam Tussaud's wax museum



Baikulova Valentina Vasiljevna
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Madam Tussaud's is the most popular wax museum in the world. There are wax models of the famous and infamous, both living and dead people. It was first opened over 200 years ago and remains just as popular as it ever was.



The museum is situated in Marylebone Road, not far from the street which is famous as the home of the first great detective in fiction, Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes.



Madame Tussaud was born in Strasbourg in 1761 . Her father, a soldier, was killed in a battle during the Seven Years War only two months before Marie's birth. Her mother was a housekeeper . From the earliest childhood Marie learnt modeling techniques with Dr. Curtius. Just before the French Revolution they moved to Paris.



Young Marie made her first sculpture at the age of 16. Madame Tussaud is considered to be the first business lady in the world's history and is called a grandmother of modern show – business. She succeeded in business at time when women were rarely involved in the world of commerce. Marie Tussaud was eighty-nine and one of the nineteenth century's most successful career women when she died at her London home in Baker Street.



Her first solo exhibit appeared on Baker Street in 1835 followed by her famous Chamber of Horrors collection in 1845, where Madame Tussaud displayed a collection of death masks that she had made of the victims of the guillotine during the *Tiger Woods*. Over 150 measurements are taken to create an accurate portrait.

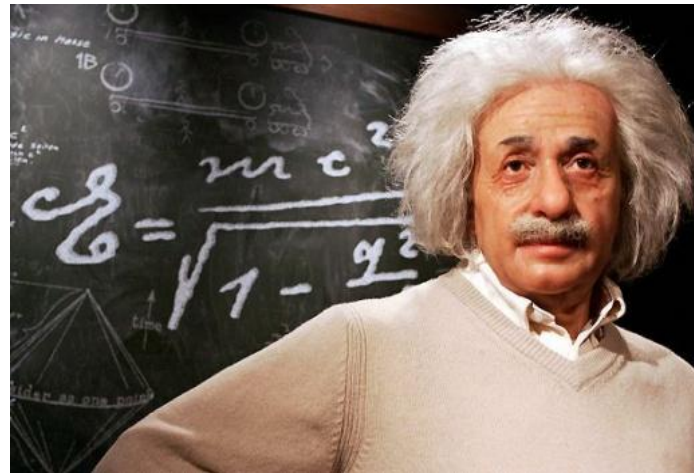


Figures are made 2% bigger than real life because wax shrinks. The wax used for the figures is similar to candle wax. Each figure weights about 15 kg – with 4.5 kg of wax used for the head and 1.4 kg for the hands.

Elvis Presley, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Marilyn Monro, Michael Jackson, Alfred Hitchcock, Charlie Chaplin, the British Royal family, Bill Clinton, Jack the Ripper ... There is no other place where you can see all the celebrities at once, even if they are only wax figures.



So if you want to rub shoulders with kings and queens, presidents, scientists, sportsmen or the latest pop stars, or probably with notorious criminals, this is the place to go. It takes about six months to complete a figure, most of which is spent on the portrait head.





The wax figures are standing and sitting, and sometimes even moving and talking. They are extremely realistic and when they look at you, their eyes sparkling, you often feel uncomfortable in their company. Computer controlled figures are especially popular with the visitors.



Madame Tussaud's wax museum is a major tourist attraction in London. There's usually a long queue in front of the museum. No wonder! Many tourists would consider their trip to London worthless if they didn't visit the famous Madam Tussaud's museum.



Web resources:

<http://www.madametussauds.com/London/>

<http://www.madametussauds.com>

http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Музей_мадамТюссо

<http://londonmania.ru/madam-tussauds-museum>

<http://www.tourister.ru/world/europe/united-kingdom/city/london/museum/545>