

### Photography

#### Introduction

This free one-day workshop, led by gallery educators, enables pupils to explore a selection of portraits from the gallery's collection ranging from



Victorian photography to contemporary acquisitions and use them as a starting point for their own artwork. Pupils will look at the range of materials artists use to produce portraits as well as the elements of portraiture - pose, expression, background, accessories and composition.

Group discussion about the portraits will be followed by drawing and art activities in the gallery with support and guidance from gallery educators. In the education studio pupils will use costume and props to explore the theme of identity in order to create their own self portrait. They will discover the process of studio photography and the roles of a model and photographer. Each pupil will have their portrait taken and be able to take away and keep

their photograph.

#### Your day at the gallery:

- The workshop runs from 10.30 am – 2.30 pm with a break for lunch (not provided).
- When you arrive you will be met by a member of staff who will show you to the education studio, where you will meet your gallery educators for the day.
- A space is provided to eat packed lunches and to leave coats and bags.
- The gallery provides all art materials, equipment and aprons to use on the day.
- You are welcome to take photos during the practical art activities. However, for copyright reasons photography is not permitted in the galleries.
- The gallery is fully accessible for people using wheelchairs and mobility aids.

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#### National Curriculum Links

This workshop is suitable for children with a range of special educational needs. The gallery educators will adapt the session to meet the pupil's needs and fit the class's programme of study.

Suitable for Key Stages 1, 2 and 3, this workshop supports the following National Curriculum subjects:

#### Art and Design:

Exploring and developing ideas; investigating and making art.

Key Stage 1&2

QCA Unit 1A: Self-portrait

QCA Unit 2A: Picture this!

QCA Unit 3A: Portraying relationships

QCA Unit 4A: Viewpoints

QCA Unit 9gen: Visiting a museum, gallery or site

Key Stage 3

QCA Unit 7A: Self-image

QCA Unit10gen: Visiting a museum, gallery or site



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**History:** Historical enquiry skills and knowledge and understanding of events, people and changes in the past.

Key Stage 1&2

QCA Unit 11: Who were the Victorians and when did they live?

Key Stage 3

QCA Unit 7: Images of an age, what can we learn from portraits 1500-1750?

**English, En1 Speaking and listening:** particularly group discussion and interaction skills.

**PSHE:** The workshop provides an opportunity to visit a public place and meet gallery staff in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. This enables pupils to develop their confidence, responsibility, behaviour and communication skills.

**Science:**

Key Stage 1&2

QCA Unit 3F: Light and shadows

QCA Unit 6F: How we see things

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Gallery educators will choose a selection of portraits from the National Portrait Gallery's collection from different periods of time. Pupils will become art detectives and explore the signs and symbols in portraits and how they help reveal who the person is. They will also look at gesture and pose and the materials the artist has used to create the portrait.

#### **Some of the portraits you will explore during the Photography Visual Literacy workshop may include:**

##### **Queen Victoria**

by Robert Jefferson Bingham, albumen carte-de-visite, 1855-1861

The gallery educator will explain how when this photograph was taken Queen Victoria would have had to sit very still. The photographic process was much slower compared to the digital technology we have today. Queen Victoria was the first monarch to use photography as propaganda. She loved being photographed with Prince Albert, never before had the masses been able to see their monarch so intimately. [NPG x13847]

##### **Isambard Kingdom Brunel**

by Robert Howlett, albumen print, 1857

Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the son of Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, earned early experience working on his father's Thames Tunnel. He went on to design suspension bridges, the Great Western Railway and railways in Italy, India and Australia. His greatest fame however came as a designer of ocean-going steamships including the Great Eastern, before whose massive chains he stands in this famous photograph. [NPG P112]

##### **Sam Taylor-Wood ('Self-portrait in Single-breasted Suit with Hare')**

by Sam Taylor-Wood, C-type colour print, 2001

This self-portrait was included in *Mute* at White Cube 2; an exhibition infused with references to the fragility of life following the artist's battle with cancer. The stuffed hare is both a traditional symbol of lust and passion and also a reference to the loss of hair associated with chemotherapy treatment. [NPG P959]

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**David Robert Joseph Beckham; Victoria Beckham (née Adams)**

by Dean Freeman, C-type colour print, April 1999

Dean Freeman was official photographer to the *Spice Girls* and this portrait of the Beckhams was taken for the best-selling book *David Beckham My World* (2000). [NPG x88700]

Please note, portraits in the gallery are sometimes taken off display. If this is the case the gallery educators will incorporate alternative portraits into the session.

#### **In the classroom**

Support your visit to the National Portrait Gallery with the 'Portraiture and Photography Resource Pack' by Roger Hargreaves, available in the Gallery bookshop.

#### **Other Visual Literacy Workshops at the National Portrait Gallery**

**The Tudors:** This practical workshop will include a drawing and plaster cast activity.

**The Victorians:** Participants will create drawings and a metal embossing inspired by some of the Gallery's Victorian portraits.