

The Victorians

Introduction

This free one-day workshop, led by gallery educators, enables pupils to explore the gallery's Victorian portraits and use them as a starting



point for their own artwork. Pupils will discuss the historical evidence and narrative behind portraits, looking at the details, signs, symbols and decorative elements. They will also explore the elements of portraiture - pose, expression, background, accessories and composition.

Group discussion about the portraits will be followed by drawing activities with

support and guidance from gallery educators. In the education studio pupils will use the patterns and motifs from their drawings to create a metal embossing, which they can take away and keep.

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. Pupils will be introduced to codes and conventions and how these are used to represent ideas, beliefs, and values in works of art. They will record from first-hand observation and focus on visual and tactile elements including colour, pattern and texture, line and tone, shape and form.

Key Stage 1&2

QCA Unit 1B: Investigating materials

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 10gen: 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 4: Why do we remember Florence Nightingale?

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

Key Stage 3

QCA Unit 22: The role of the individual for good or ill?

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.

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Gallery educators will choose a selection of portraits from the National Portrait Gallery's collection. Pupils will become art detectives and explore the signs and symbols in portraits and how they help reveal who the person is.

Some of the portraits you will explore during the Victorian Visual Literacy workshop may include:

Queen Victoria (1819-1901)

by Sir George Hayter, oil on canvas

Queen Victoria came to the throne at the age of eighteen. After the death of her uncle, William IV, in 1837 she was crowned queen on 28 June 1838. She wrote in her journal on the day of her coronation: 'I really cannot say how proud I feel to be the Queen of such a Nation', and some of this idealism is conveyed in Sir George Hayter's coronation portrait. This painting was bought by Queen Victoria and presented by her to the Gallery in 1900.

[NPG 1250]

Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha; Queen Victoria

after a marble by William Theed the Younger, plaster cast of statue, 1868 (1863-1867)

Prince Albert married Queen Victoria in 1840, and played an influential role in British public life. Noted as a patron of the arts, Prince Albert was largely responsible for the Great Exhibition of 1851. The original version of this portrait, showing Prince Albert wearing the Star of the Garter and the uniform of the Rifle Brigade, was one of the last portraits to be painted of him before his premature death from typhoid in 1861. This autograph replica was commissioned for the National Portrait Gallery by Queen Victoria. [NPG 237]

Mary Jane Seacole (née Grant)

by Albert Charles Challen, oil on panel, 1869

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Seacole owes her reputation to her nursing activities during the Crimean war. Rebuffed when she tried to join Florence Nightingale's nursing sisters, she travelled independently to Balaklava where she helped open the British Hotel halfway between the harbour and British Headquarters.

[NPG L235]

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Nightingale receiving the Wounded at Scutari

by Jerry Barrett, oil on canvas, 1857

Florence Nightingale reformed hospital nursing during the 19th Century. She trained as a sick nurse and was invited to take nurses out to tend the wounded in the Crimean War (1854). [NPG 6202]

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]

Sir Edwin Henry Landseer

by John Ballantyne, oil on canvas, circa 1865

In this portrait Landseer is shown in the studio of Baron Marochetti modelling one of the lions for the base of Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. [NPG 835]

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.

Other Visual Literacy Workshops at the National Portrait Gallery

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

Photography: Participants will work with our experienced photographer to create their own photographs using the National Portrait Gallery's collections.