

News Release

Wednesday 25 October 2017

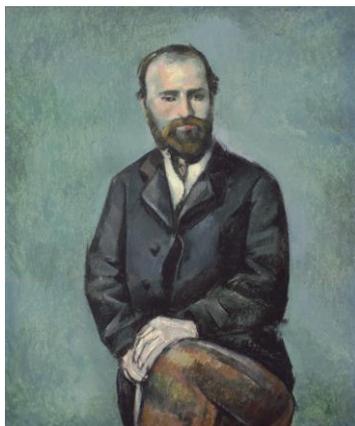
SELF-PORTRAITS BY CÉZANNE GO ON PUBLIC DISPLAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Cézanne Portraits, National Portrait Gallery, London

26 October 2017 – 11 February 2018

Press view: Wednesday, 25 October 2017, 10.00–12.00

Exhibition organised by the National Portrait Gallery, London, Etablissement public des musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, Paris, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.



From L to R: **Self-Portrait** by Paul Cézanne, c.1885; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh; acquired through the generosity of the Sarah Mellon Scaife Family. **Self-Portrait in a Bowler Hat** by Paul Cézanne, c.1885–6; Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen; Photo: Ole Haupt. **Self-Portrait with Bowler Hat** by Paul Cézanne, 1885–6; Private Collection

Three self-portraits by Paul Cézanne, painted in 1885 and 1886, including a complementary pair showing Cézanne in a bowler hat, will go on public display for the first time in the United Kingdom in a major new exhibition, ***Cézanne Portraits***, opening at the National Portrait Gallery, London, on Thursday, 26 October 2017. The exhibition brings together for the first time over fifty of Cézanne's portraits from collections across the world.

The first of the three self-portraits, painted around 1885, was, together with Cézanne's earliest self-portrait, the only painted self-portrait to be based upon a photograph. The two portraits with a bowler hat show the artist in a familiar pose, looking back over his shoulder, his right eye engaging with the viewer. The shape of the hat reflects Cézanne's pleasure in modelling simple, solid geometric forms. The works are the only painted self-portraits to show Cézanne wearing a bowler hat, although it would become his favourite headgear in his later years.



From L to R: **Madame Cézanne Sewing** by Paul Cézanne, 1877; Nationalmuseum, Stockholm; Photo © Eric Cornelius/Nationalmuseum, Stockholm. **Madame Cézanne** by Paul Cézanne, 1886–7; Detroit Institute of Arts; Bequest of Robert H. Tannahill. **Antoine-Fortuné Marion** by Paul Cézanne, 1870–1; Kunstmuseum, Basel. Photo © Kunstmuseum Basel – Martin P. Bühler.

Also displayed for the first time in the United Kingdom will be two portraits of Cézanne’s wife, Hortense Fiquet – *Madame Cézanne Sewing* (1877), on loan from the Nationalmuseum, Stockholm and *Madame Cézanne* (1886–7), on loan from the Detroit Institute of Arts; a portrait of Cézanne’s close friend Antoine-Fortuné Marion, who became Director of the Museum of Natural History in Marseille and went on painting expeditions with Cézanne in Provence; and one of a series of portraits of Cézanne’s maternal uncle, Dominique Aubert who, dressed in differing costumes, sat for nine or ten portraits by his nephew over the winter of 1866–7. In addition to the portraits previously unseen in the United Kingdom, the exhibition also includes a number of works that were last exhibited in this country in the 1920s and 1930s.

Paul Cézanne (1839–1906) painted almost 200 portraits during his career, including twenty-six of himself and twenty-nine of his wife, Hortense Fiquet. ***Cézanne Portraits*** explores the special pictorial and thematic characteristics of Cézanne’s portraiture, including his creation of complementary pairs and multiple versions of the same subject. The chronological development of Cézanne’s portraiture is considered, with an examination of the changes that occurred with respect to his style and method, and his understanding of resemblance and identity. The exhibition also discusses the extent to which particular sitters inflected the characteristics and development of his practise.

Works included in the exhibition range from Cézanne’s remarkable portraits of his Uncle Dominique, dating from the 1860s, through to his final portraits of Vallier, who helped Cézanne in his garden and studio at Les Lauves, Aix-en-Provence, made shortly before the artist’s death in 1906. The paintings are drawn from museums and private collections in Brazil, Denmark, France, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Cézanne is widely considered one of the most influential artists of the nineteenth century. Generally categorised as a Post-Impressionist, his unique method of building form with colour, and his analytical approach to nature influenced the art of Cubists, Fauvists and successive generations of avant-garde artists. Both Matisse and Picasso called Cézanne ‘the father of us all’.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, London, says: ‘We are delighted to have brought together an unprecedented number of Cézanne’s portraits for the first time in order to reveal arguably the most personal, and therefore most human, aspect of his art. While Cézanne may have learnt a great deal from the Impressionists, his aim was quite different, his vision unique, informed by a desire to see through appearances to the underlying structure of things by means of

mass, line and shimmering colour. Nowhere was this more evident than in his portraits. This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition.'

John Elderfield, Chief Curator Emeritus of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art, New York and Curator of Cézanne Portraits says: 'Cézanne's portraits not only invite us into the world he knew; they also allow us to contemplate the continuing inventiveness of the artist at work. Unlike most of his avant-garde peers, Cézanne never received a portrait commission, and many of his painted likenesses of friends and family members offer little information in the way of his sitters' individual personas, stature, or psychology. More than his landscapes and still lifes, Cézanne's portraits serve as markers or milestones in his long and prolific career, allowing us to ponder the key developments in his painting process and of his understanding of what portraiture can achieve.'

Cézanne Portraits is curated by John Elderfield, Chief Curator Emeritus of Painting and Sculpture at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, where he has organised numerous exhibitions, including major retrospectives devoted to Willem de Kooning, Henri Matisse and Kurt Schwitters; with Mary Morton, Curator and Head of the Department of French Paintings, National Gallery of Art and Xavier Rey, Director of the Museums of Marseille and former Director of Collections, Musée d'Orsay.

The exhibition is organised by the National Portrait Gallery, London, Etablissement public des musées d'Orsay et de l'Orangerie, Paris, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C. The exhibition was open at the Musée d'Orsay from 13 June 2017 to 24 September 2017, moving to the National Portrait Gallery from 26 October 2017 to 11 February 2018, and the National Gallery of Art from 25 March to 1 July 2018.

Cézanne Portraits

26 October 2017 – 11 February 2018 at the National Portrait Gallery, London www.npg.org.uk

Tickets with donation: Full price £20/Concessions £18.50

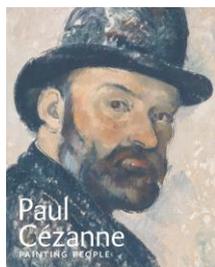
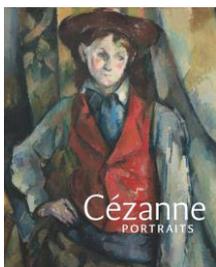
Tickets without donation: Full price £18/Concessions £16.50

Free for Members and Patrons

npg.org.uk/Cezanne #CézannePortraits

Publications

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated book featuring 170 beautifully reproduced portraits, with an introductory essay on Cézanne's portraiture by exhibition curator John Elderfield and a *dramatis personae* on the featured sitters by the artist's biographer, the late Alex Danchev. Catalogue texts are by John Elderfield, Mary Morton and Xavier Rey. An illustrated chronology by Jayne Warman sets the artist's work in the context of his life. The publication will be priced at £35.00. A Gallery-exclusive paperback edition is available, priced at £24.95. A highlights book, featuring key portraits from the exhibition, an essay by Cézanne scholar Mary Tompkins Lewis and an illustrated chronology of the artist's life and work, is available, priced at £12.50.



Exhibition supported by 24Sevres.com

For further press information or interview requests, please contact:

Laura McKechnan, Senior Communications Manager, National Portrait Gallery, Tel. 020 7321 6620
(not for publication)/Email lmckechnan@npg.org.uk

To download press releases and images, please go to: <https://we.tl/579qyckaVu>

National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place WC2H 0HE, opening hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday: 10.00–18.00 (Gallery closure commences at 17.50) **Late Opening:** Thursday, Friday: 10.00–21.00 (Gallery closure commences at 8.50pm) **Nearest Underground:** Leicester Square/Charing Cross **General information:** 020 7306 0055 **Recorded information:** 020 7312 2463 **Website** www.npg.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

Portraits last exhibited in the prior to 1940:

Self-Portrait, Rose Ground by Paul Cézanne, c.1875. Last exhibited 1914

Madame Cézanne by Paul Cézanne, 1885–6 (Musée d'Orsay, Paris). Last exhibited 1920

Madame Cézanne by Paul Cézanne, 1885–6 (Philadelphia Museum of Art). Last exhibited in 1923

Portrait of a Woman by Paul Cézanne, c.1900. Last exhibited in 1930

Alfred Hauge by Paul Cézanne, 1899. Last exhibited in 1937

Madame Cézanne in a Red Dress by Paul Cézanne 1888–90 (Art Institute of Chicago). Last exhibited 1939

Boy in a Red Waistcoat by Paul Cézanne 1888–90. Last exhibited 1939

Seated Woman in Blue by Paul Cézanne 1902–4. Last exhibited 1939

CÉZANNE – PORTRAITS OF A LIFE

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN is thrilled to present *CÉZANNE – PORTRAITS OF A LIFE*, based on the *Cézanne Portraits* exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, London, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C, and Musée d'Orsay, Paris, featuring interviews with curators from all three galleries as well as extensive interviews with experts, including Paul Cézanne's great grandson, in Aix-en-Provence. Beautifully filmed in London, Paris and Provence, the film also makes extensive use of correspondence from the artist himself. In cinemas in fifty-five countries from 23 January 2018. Directed by Phil Grabsky.