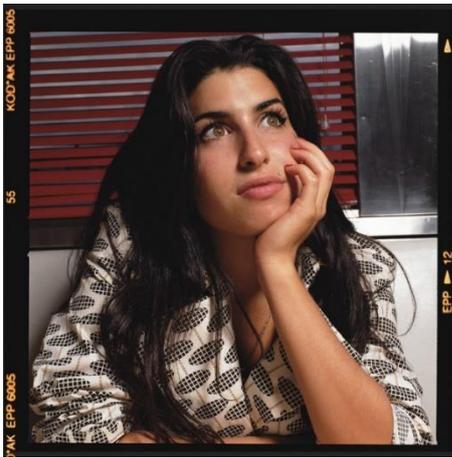


News Release

Monday 26 November 2018

Previously Unseen Portrait of Amy Winehouse and Other Recent Acquisitions Unveiled in New Contemporary Collection Display at National Portrait Gallery

Highlights include unseen portraits of Amy Winehouse, Sir Kenneth Branagh and award-winning visual effects creator Ben Morris; newly acquired portraits of Sir Ranulph Fiennes, Tim Peake and Neil MacGregor; photographs from The Duke and Duchess of Sussex's wedding and new works by artist Njideka Akunyili Crosby



L-R: Previously unseen portraits: **Amy Winehouse** by Ram Shergill, 2004, © Ram Shergill; **Sir Kenneth Branagh** by Colin Davidson, 2014 © Colin Davidson; **Ben Morris** by Maija Tammi, 2018, © National Portrait Gallery

A previously unseen portrait of musician Amy Winehouse, taken by fashion photographer Ram Shergill in 2003, has gone on public display for the first time at the National Portrait Gallery, London as part of a major new display of the Gallery's Contemporary Collection. The portrait, commissioned by *The Guardian*, but never published, reveals a young and playful Winehouse a year after the release of her debut album *Frank*, showing her vulnerability before she rose to fame with her second album *Back to Black* in 2006. The work, acquired by the Gallery in 2017, is shown alongside another rarely seen portrait of Winehouse by Shergill from the same series. The photographs feature in a section of the display devoted to music and fashion from the Nineties to Noughties, including portraits of Blur, Kate Moss, Take That, The Spice Girls and Alexander McQueen with Isabella Blow.

Also unveiled is a drawing of actor and film director, Sir Kenneth Branagh, by artist Colin Davidson, which was gifted to the Gallery in 2018. Completed in 2014 when Branagh was directing his re-make of Disney's *Cinderella*, Davidson described the sitting as a 'meeting of two Belfast men' having both grown up in Northern Ireland in the 1960s. Other recent acquisitions exhibited for the first time include Chris Levine's portrait of leading explorer, Sir Ranulph Fiennes, completed in 2017 and one of a series of portraits the artist has made of Fiennes; Sam Barker's portrait of British astronaut Tim Peake, photographed for the British Airways magazine, *High Life* in 2017, and a portrait of former

Director of the British Museum, Neil MacGregor by Wolfgang Tillmans, which became the second work by Tillmans to join the Gallery Collection when it was purchased with support from the Ruddock Foundation for the Arts earlier this year.



Amy Winehouse by Ram Shergill, 2004, © Ram Shergill; **Tim Peake** by Sam Barker, 2017 © Sam Barker; **Felicity Jones** by Laura Pannack, 2016, © National Portrait Gallery

A special section within the display unveils portraits commissioned by the John Kobal New Work Award over the last four years, a prize previously awarded to a photographer under thirty-five whose work is selected for display in the *Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize* exhibition at the Gallery. Portraits of Jack O’Connell by Tereza Červeňová, Felicity Jones by Laura Pannack and Roger Deakins by Josh Redman are on public display for the first time. These are shown alongside the previously unseen commission by 2017 winner, Finnish artist Maija Tammi, who photographed multi-award winning visual effects creator, Ben Morris, a Creative Director at Industrial Light & Magic and a founding member of the company’s London studio. Morris’s extensive career as a visual effects supervisor includes films such as *The Golden Compass* (2007), for which he earned an Academy Award, *War Horse* (2011), *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (2015) and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (2017). In Tammi’s portrait Morris posed with a 3D facial motion capture head rig, which is designed to record body movements and facial expressions. Using dots on the actor’s face, the device digitally chronicles data that is combined with the on-screen digital character to give the qualities of human performance.

Also on display for the first time are official photographs of The Duke and Duchess of Sussex’s wedding in May 2018 by photographer Alexi Lubomirski. The photographs were shared by Kensington Palace across social media and liked and commented on by millions. A selection of these photographs and those by Hugo Burnand documenting the marriage of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Patron of the National Portrait Gallery, also on display, were acquired by the Gallery in 2018 adding to the rich holdings of royal wedding photographs held in the Gallery Collection.



The Beautiful Ones Series #7 by Njideka Akunyili Crosby, 2018; **The Beautiful Ones Series #1c** by Njideka Akunyili Crosby 2014; **Something Split and New** by Njideka Akunyili Crosby 2013. All works © Njideka Akunyili Crosby Courtesy the artist and Victoria Miro, London/Venice

Alongside works from the Gallery's Collection sits a complementary display of works by artist Njideka Akunyili Crosby, from her ongoing series, *The Beautiful Ones*, which is comprised of portraits of Nigerian youth including some members of the artist's family. Akunyili Crosby has created four new works in the series especially for the National Portrait Gallery display, which is her first in a UK national institution. Born in Nigeria in 1983, Akunyili Crosby moved to the United States at the age of sixteen, where she has lived and worked ever since. Her recent commission *Remain, Thriving*, a new work made specifically for the entrance of Brixton Underground station was unveiled in September 2018. Akunyili Crosby shares narratives from her family and friends in her large-scale multi-layered portraits made for the National Portrait Gallery. These are stories that relate her experience of the intermixed cultures of the two countries in which she has lived. Each work draws on the Western tradition of representation and combines painting, drawing, collage, and photographic images. Autobiographical scenes of domestic life are layered with images that reflect a left-over presence of colonial British rule and the influence of American popular culture on daily Nigerian life.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, London said "We are delighted to be able to bring out so many new and previously unseen works in our latest Contemporary Collection display. The works on display illustrate the diversity and vitality of twenty-first-century portraiture. Individuals are represented in unique and surprising ways, in a range of media, intended to challenge our understanding of what portraiture is today."

The National Portrait Gallery's Contemporary Collection encompasses works produced from 2000 to the present day. The new display features highlights from this Collection, including a range of sitters from the younger generation of members of the royal family to novelists, artists, scientists, politicians and sportspeople all of whom are making significant contributions to British culture, history and identity today.

Contemporary Collection Display and Njideka Akunyili Crosby: *The Beautiful Ones*

National Portrait Gallery, London

Until 3 February 2019

Admission FREE

npg.org.uk

Njideka Akunyili Crosby: *The Beautiful Ones* is funded by the William Brake Charitable Trust, with additional support from Victoria Miro, London/Venice.

In Conversation: The Unseen Amy Winehouse

7 December 2018, 19:00

Photographers Ram Shergill and Charles Moriarty talk to writer and music journalist Sylvia Patterson about their experiences of photographing the late Amy Winehouse. Ram Shergill is an internationally acclaimed British fashion photographer and has worked with Amy Winehouse, Eddie Redmayne, Dame Judi Dench, Naomi Campbell and many more. Originally from Dublin, Charles Moriarty is a London-based photographer. He has worked with numerous artists and brands including Amy Winehouse, Damon Albarn, VICE Magazine, the Tate and Diesel.

Tickets: £10 (£8 concessions and Gallery Supporters)

Book npg.org.uk, or visit the Gallery in person.

For further Press information and image requests please contact: Laura McKechan, National Portrait Gallery

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Notes to Editors

ABOUT NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY The National Portrait Gallery was founded in 1856 to encourage through portraiture the appreciation and understanding of the people who have made and are making British history and culture. Today it promotes engagement with portraiture in all media to a wide-ranging public by conserving, growing and sharing the world's largest collection of portraits. The Gallery holds the most extensive collection of portraits in the world. With over 1000 portraits on display across three floors, from Elizabeth I to David Beckham, the Gallery has something for everyone. Artists featured range from Holbein to Hockney, and the Collection includes work across all media, from painting and sculpture to photography and video. As well as the permanent displays, the Gallery has a diverse and ever-changing programme of exhibitions and events that promote an understanding and appreciation of portraiture in all forms.

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