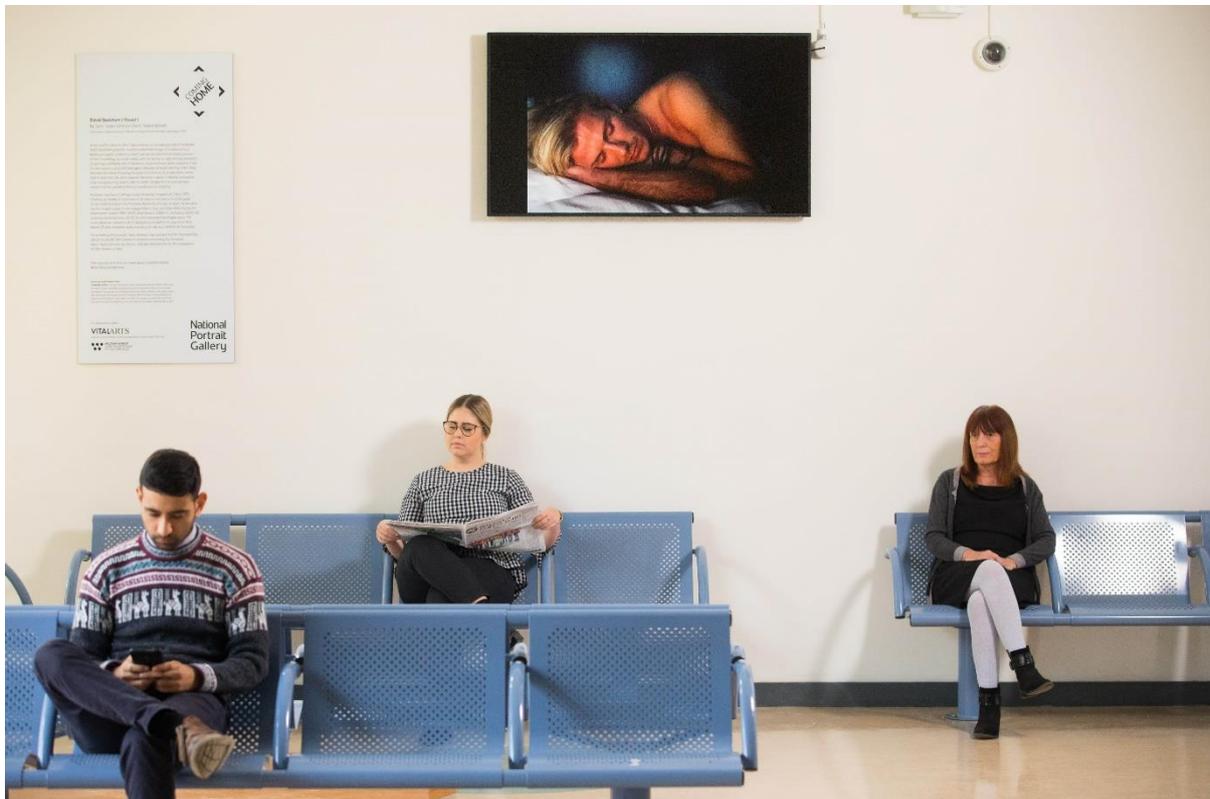


News Release

Video Portrait of David Beckham is COMING HOME to his place of birth at Whipps Cross Hospital, Leytonstone



Photography by David Parry

The renowned video portrait of David Beckham sleeping by internationally-acclaimed artist and film director Sam Taylor-Johnson (Sam Taylor-Wood) has been unveiled today in its temporary new home at Whipps Cross Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust, Leytonstone, as part of the National Portrait Gallery's flagship programme COMING HOME.

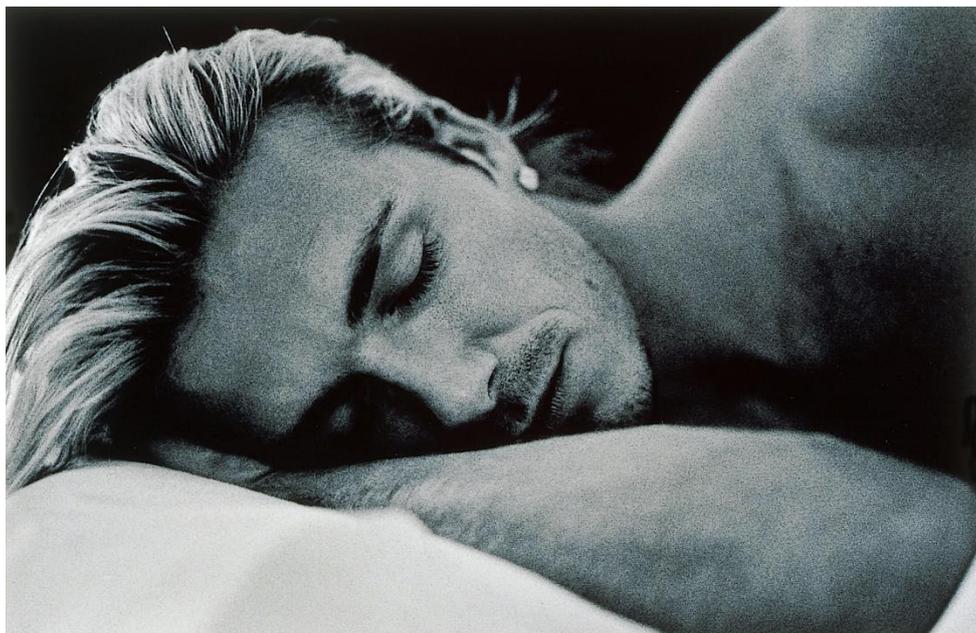
COMING HOME sees 50 portraits of iconic individuals from the national Collection traveling to the towns and cities most closely associated with their subjects.



Photography by David Parry

In the National Portrait Gallery's first major loan to a hospital, Taylor-Johnson's portrait of David Beckham, (*David*), will be on display until March 2020 in the Ultrasound Department at Whipps Cross Hospital. The loan has been organised in collaboration with Vital Arts, the Arts and Wellbeing service within Barts Health NHS Trust, and is part of Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019.

David was commissioned by the National Portrait Gallery in 2004, with support from J.P.Morgan through the Fund for New Commissions. Sam Taylor-Johnson's intimate portrait presents a reverential and vulnerable image of the international football icon. Drawing inspiration from the Renaissance artist Michelangelo's *Allegory of Night* and Pop Artist Andy Warhol's film *Sleep* featuring the poet John Giorno, Taylor-Johnson shot the film in a single long take, capturing Beckham asleep in Madrid after a long training session with his team. Simply lit from one light source, this rich, painterly film, is a meditation on celebrity.



David Beckham ('David') by Sam Taylor-Johnson (Sam Taylor-Wood), 2004 © Sam Taylor-Wood

Beckham was born in Whipps Cross Hospital on 2 May 1975. Growing up nearby in Leytonstone, he had scored over a hundred goals for his childhood team the Ridgeway Rovers by the age of eight. He became the first English player to win league titles in four countries while playing for Manchester United (1992–2003), Real Madrid (2003–7), LA Galaxy (2007–12) and Paris Saint-Germain (2013). He also captained the English team 115 times. Beckham retired in 2013, dedicating himself to his new team Inter Miami CF and charitable work, including his role as a UNICEF Ambassador.

Since making this portrait, Taylor-Johnson (b. 1967) has directed the film *Nowhere Boy* about the Beatle John Lennon's adolescence starring her husband Aaron Taylor-Johnson as Lennon. She also directed the hit film adaptation of *Fifty-Shades of Grey*.

Throughout 2020 COMING HOME will also see:

- Meera Syal by Jason Bell, 2002, travel to the Wolverhampton Art Gallery
- The Mission of Mercy: Florence Nightingale receiving the Wounded at Scutari by Jerry Barrett, 1857, travel the Derby Museum and Art Gallery
- The 16th century portrait of Richard III by an unknown artist travel to the Yorkshire Museum in York, following its recent display in Leicester
- Malala Yousafzai by Shirin Neshat, 2018, travel to Aston Hall in Birmingham.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, said: "In our first-ever loan of an artwork to a hospital, we could not be more delighted to lend *David* to Whipps Cross Hospital as part of our innovative COMING HOME initiative. We hope that sending portraits 'home' in this way will foster a sense of pride and create a personal connection for local communities to a bigger national history; thus, helping to fulfil our aim of being truly a national gallery for everyone, in our role as the nation's family album."

Catsou Roberts, Director of Vital Arts, said: "Vital Arts welcomes the loan of this work by one of Britain's most significant artists of her generation, Sam Taylor-Johnson. Our mission is to bring museum-quality art to the vast and diverse communities that access our east London hospitals, and this film will offer patients, visitors, and staff a meaningful encounter with contemporary art."

Sam Hunt, Creative Director of London Borough of Culture, Waltham Forest, said: "Throughout our year as the Mayor's first London Borough of Culture, we have been putting culture on every corner and in the heart of communities. COMING HOME is an incredible initiative offering more opportunities for people to enjoy art. We are proud to welcome home one of the Borough's most famous sons and hope that this work by Sam Taylor-Johnson inspires future athletes and artists alike."

The National Portrait Gallery has been collecting portraits of men and women who have made a significant contribution to British life and history since 1856.

As part of COMING HOME, the Gallery will be working with local museums, galleries and other venues to help choose portraits that are special to them, providing communities across the country with the opportunity to celebrate their local heroes.

COMING HOME is supported by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, by generous contributions from The Thompson Family Charitable Trust, and by funds raised at the gallery's Portrait Gala in 2017.

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Press images can be downloaded at any time from <https://we.tl/t-6uMqmbEG6p>

Notes to Editors:

National Portrait Gallery

Founded in 1856, the aim of the National Portrait Gallery, London is 'to promote through the medium of portraits the appreciation and understanding of the men and women who have made and are making British history and culture, and ... to promote the appreciation and understanding of portraiture in all media'. The Gallery holds the most extensive collection of portraits in the world. www.npg.org.uk

COMING HOME is part of the National Portrait Gallery's ambitious programme of activities to share its unique Collection of portraits with the nation, while work is carried out on Inspiring People, the Gallery's biggest ever development since the building in St Martin's Place opened in 1896. Designed by Jamie Fobert Architects and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the transformational project comprises a comprehensive re-display of the Collection from the Tudors to now, combined with a significant refurbishment of the building, the creation of a new public spaces, a more welcoming visitor entrance and public forecourt, and a new state of the art Learning Centre.

Vital Arts

Vital Arts is the arts organisation within Barts Health NHS Trust. It is charitably funded to deliver art projects that enhance the hospital environment and, in turn, improve the patient experience. With five hospitals in east London - The Royal London, St Bartholomew's (Barts), Mile End, Whipps Cross and Newham University Hospital - serving over 2.5 million patients, Vital Arts views these important civic buildings as ideal places to introduce new audiences to transformative power of art. www.vitalarts.org.uk

London Borough of Culture 2019, Waltham Forest

Waltham Forest is the first ever London Borough of Culture. The award from the Mayor of London places art and culture at the heart of our communities. The year explores the theme Radicals, Makers and Fellowship in a collaboration between local residents, artists and creatives producing a once in a lifetime celebration of the place we call home. wfculture19.co.uk