

News Release

Friday 3 May 2019

National Portrait Gallery to Stage First Major Exhibition of David Hockney's Drawings in Over Twenty Years

New and previously unseen works, including studies for 'A Rake's Progress' to go on public display for the first time in spring 2020



Images from L-R: David Hockney **Mother, Bradford. 19 Feb 1979**, Sepia ink on paper 14 x 11" © David Hockney Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt Collection The David Hockney Foundation; David Hockney **Celia, Carennac, August 1971**, coloured pencil on paper 17 x 14" © David Hockney Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt Collection The David Hockney Foundation; David Hockney **Self Portrait**, March 14 2012, iPad drawing printed on paper Exhibition Proof 37 x 28" © David Hockney

David Hockney: Drawing from Life

National Portrait Gallery, London

27 February – 28 June 2020

The National Portrait Gallery, London is to stage the first major exhibition devoted to David Hockney's drawings in over twenty years. *David Hockney: Drawing from Life* (27 February – 28 June 2020), will explore Hockney as a draughtsman from the 1950s to now, by focussing on his depictions of himself and a small group of sitters close to him: his muse, Celia Birtwell; his mother, Laura Hockney; and friends, the curator, Gregory Evans, and master printer, Maurice Payne. The exhibition will feature new portraits of some of the sitters and previously unseen early works, including working drawings for his pivotal *A Rake's Progress* etching suite (1961-63), inspired by the

identically named series of prints by William Hogarth (1697-64), and sketchbooks from Hockney's art school days in Bradford in the 1950s.



Images L-R: David Hockney **Gregory. Los Angeles. March 31st 1982**, composite polaroid 14 1/2 x 13 1/4" © David Hockney Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt; David Hockney **Maurice 1998**, etching A.P. II/X 44 x 30 1/2" © David Hockney Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt Collection The David Hockney Foundation; David Hockney **Studies for 'A Rake's Progress**, 1962 Ink on paper 14 x 11" © David Hockney Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt Collection The David Hockney Foundation

Featuring around 150 works from public and private collections across the world, as well as from the David Hockney Foundation and the artist, the exhibition will trace the trajectory of his practice by revisiting these five subjects over a period of five decades. The intimate portraits are rendered in pencil, pastel, ink and watercolour, using both traditional and non-traditional drawing equipment including coloured pencil, pen, the Polaroid camera and apps found on the iPhone and iPad.

Hockney is recognised as one of the master draughtsmen of our times and a champion of the medium. *David Hockney: Drawing from Life* will examine not only how drawing is fundamental to the artist's distinctive way of observing the world around him, but also how it has often been a testing ground for ideas and modes of expression later played out in his paintings. Over the past fifty years, the artist's experimentation with drawing has taken many different stylistic turns. The portrait drawings reveal his admiration for both the old masters and modern masters from Holbein to Matisse. The influence of Ingres can be seen in Hockney's neo-Classical style line drawings of the 1970s and the 'camera lucida' drawings of the late 1990s. While in the 1980s he used composite Polaroids to 'draw with the camera', as he described it, creating Cubist depictions of form which paid homage to Picasso. In more recent years, Hockney has returned to the distinctive mark making of Rembrandt and van Gogh.

Highlights of the exhibition will include a series of new portraits; coloured pencil drawings created in Paris in the early 1970s; composite Polaroid portraits from the 1980s; and a selection of drawings from an intense period of self-scrutiny during the 1980s when the artist created a self-portrait every day over a period of two months.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, London said: "We are delighted to announce this major new exhibition of drawings by one of the most internationally respected and renowned artists alive today. By focussing on Hockney as a supreme draughtsman and his intimate and revealing sustained depictions of sitters over time (including himself) the exhibition will demonstrate his constant and continuing ingenuity with portrait drawings which reference both tradition and technology – from Ingres to the iPad."

Sarah Howgate, Curator of *David Hockney: Drawing from Life* said: "It is a real privilege to have the opportunity to collaborate with David Hockney on a second exhibition for the National Portrait Gallery. For the first time, *Drawing from Life* presents a series of jewel-like portraits of four subjects dear to David's heart, as well as self-portraits dating from his school-boy days in the 1950s right up to his self-scrutiny of the new millennium. This intimate journey in line demonstrates and celebrates the master draughtsman that David remains to this day."

David Hockney, OM, CH, RA (born 9 July 1937) is an English painter, draughtsman, printmaker, stage designer, and photographer. As an important contributor to the Pop Art movement of the 1960s, he is considered one of the most influential and celebrated British artists of the late twentieth and early twenty first century.

David Hockney: Drawing from life is curated by Sarah Howgate, Senior Curator of Contemporary Collections at the National Portrait Gallery. Her previous exhibitions for the Gallery include *David Hockney Portraits* (2006), *Lucian Freud Portraits* (2012); *Gillian Wearing and Claude Cahun: Behind the mask, another mask* (2017); *Tacita Dean: PORTRAIT* (2018) and *Friendship Portraits: Chantal Joffe and Ishbel Myerscough* (2015).

David Hockney: Drawing from Life

27 February – 28 June 2020 at the National Portrait Gallery, London

Tickets without donation from £17 - £20

Tickets with donation from £19 - £22

Free for Members and Patrons

npg.org.uk

Spring Season 2020 sponsored by Herbert Smith Freehills LLP

£5 ticket for under 25s

Every Friday the Gallery will make 500 £5 tickets available to anyone aged under 25. Under 12s are free and family tickets are also available. Tickets are subject to availability on a first come, first served basis and can be booked online or in person at the Gallery. Proof of age will be required.

Publication

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, featuring around 150 beautifully reproduced portraits. The publication will also feature an essay from curator Sarah Howgate, and an interview with David Hockney. The paperback will be available from Spring 2020 via the Gallery shops and online at npg.org.uk/shop

The exhibition will tour to The Morgan Library & Museum, New York from 2 October 2020 - 17 January 2021.

For further press information please contact: Laura McKechnan, Senior Communications Manager, National Portrait Gallery, Tel. 020 7321 6620, lmckechnan@npg.org.uk

National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place WC2H 0HE, opening hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday: 10.00 – 18.00 (Gallery closure commences at 17.50) **Late Opening:** Friday: 10.00 – 21.00 (Gallery closure commences at 8.50pm) **Nearest Underground:** Leicester Square/Charing Cross **General information:** 0207 306 0055 **Recorded information:** 020 7312 2463 **Website** www.npg.org.uk