

News Release

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY TO STAGE MAJOR EXHIBITION OF ELIZABETH PEYTON'S PORTRAITS



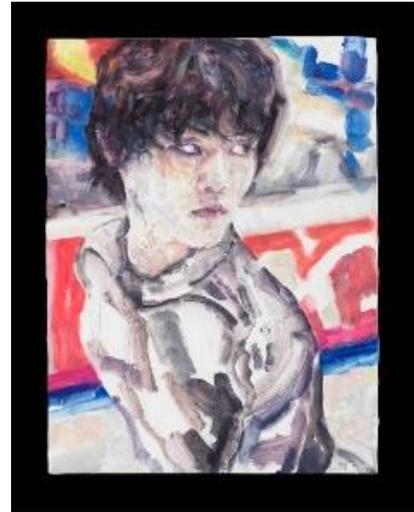
Portrait at the Opera (Elizabeth) by Elizabeth Peyton 2016. Private Collection. Courtesy The Brant Foundation, Greenwich, CT. USA © Elizabeth Peyton; **Alizarin Kurt** by Elizabeth Peyton, 1995. Private Collection. Courtesy The Brant Foundation, Greenwich, CT. USA © Elizabeth Peyton; **David, March 2017** by Elizabeth Peyton, 2017 (March). Private Collection, San Francisco © Elizabeth Peyton.

Elizabeth Peyton: Aire and Angels

3 October 2019 – 5 January 2020

The National Portrait Gallery, London is to stage the first exhibition situating leading contemporary artist Elizabeth Peyton within the historical tradition of portraiture. Created in close collaboration with the artist, *Elizabeth Peyton: Aire and Angels* surveys the work of Elizabeth Peyton, with a particular focus on the last decade of her practice. In addition to over 40 works on display in the exhibition, Peyton will become the first artist ever to be given the run of the entire National Portrait Gallery, with a series of displays within the permanent Collection, juxtaposing Peyton's art with historic portraits from the Tudor period onwards.

Known for her luminous pictures, Peyton's diverse and ever-expanding repertoire of recurring subjects includes figures resonant to her, past and present. Composed using a variety of techniques – oil painting, pencil and pastel drawing, watercolour and printmaking – her art is made both from life and memory, as well as from a wide array of secondary sources. Cutting across time and place, medium and method, at its core, Peyton's work is born of a wish to contain time by making art that explores love, beauty, and human relationships.



Napoleon by Elizabeth Peyton, 1991. Collection Sadie Coles. © Elizabeth Peyton;
After Michelangelo by Elizabeth Peyton, 2017. Ringier Collection, Switzerland. © Elizabeth Peyton; **Practice (Yuzuru Hanyu)** by Elizabeth Peyton, 2018. Private Collection, courtesy of Adam Green Art Advisory. © Elizabeth Peyton

The exhibition will include a selection of key portraits from the first two decades of her career, whilst investigating the new direction in her work over the last 10 years. Portraits on display will include Napoleon, Queen Elizabeth II, Yuzuru Hanyu, Frida Kahlo, Tyler the Creator, Isa Genzken, David Bowie, Elias Bender Rønnenfelt, David Fray, Louis XIV among many others. A number of works capture Peyton's personal environment, revealing private encounters between the artist and her subjects or intimate corners of her immediate surroundings and interleaving the genres of portraiture and still life. Peyton has also made portraits after works by artists including Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Eugène Delacroix, and Edward Burne-Jones, which will be included in the exhibition.

The exhibition is accompanied by a series of displays within the Collection, positioning Peyton's work within the context of historic portraiture. Having occupied a central place within contemporary art and portraiture since the early 1990s, Peyton's work demonstrates an intensely personal, increasingly expansive and indirect understanding of the genre. Contemporary figures including David Hockney and Kurt Cobain will be displayed alongside figures such as Queen Elizabeth I in the Tudor galleries, whilst interventions in the Victorian galleries will position Peyton's art within the context of the Romanticism of the era. In the seventeenth-century galleries, Peyton's art will be situated with historic self-portraits from Sir Antony van Dyck to Gwen John. The main exhibition within the Lerner Galleries will include the Gallery's late sixteenth-century portrait of the poet John Donne.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery London said: "Elizabeth Peyton is one of the great painters working today. Her work has been at the forefront of figurative art and expanding the idea and tradition of portraiture. We are delighted to be collaborating with her to bring her inimitable works to the National Portrait Gallery for the first time."

Lucy Dahlsen, Curator of *Elizabeth Peyton: Aire and Angels* said: "Over the last decade, Elizabeth Peyton has made a body of work that offers a highly sophisticated and personal exploration of portraiture. Her work, which is informed by an ever-expanding range of influences that cut across time and place, is born from an enduring desire to make pictures that tell us about love, beauty and human relationships."

Elizabeth Peyton: Aire and Angels is curated by Lucy Dahlsen, Associate Curator, National Portrait Gallery in collaboration with the artist. Lucy Dahlsen has curated solo displays of contemporary artists including Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Samuel Fosso, Luc Tuymans and Thomas Price. Previous exhibitions she has worked on include *Howard Hodgkin: Absent Friends* and *Giacometti: Pure Presence*.

***Elizabeth Peyton: Aire and Angels* 3 October 2019 – 5 January 2020, National Portrait Gallery, London**

www.npg.org.uk

Press View: Wednesday 2 October 2019

FREE admission

npg.org.uk/elizabethpeyton

The exhibition will tour to The Museum of National History, Frederiksborg Castle, Denmark, in Spring 2020 and to UCCA, Beijing in mid-2020.

Publications

Produced in close collaboration with the artist, the accompanying publication includes essays by Lucy Dahlsen, Thomas E. Crow and Nicholas Cullinan and explores the evolution of Peyton's art over the past ten years, looking at her unique aesthetic and her interrogation of perception, emotion and human relationships. Paperback, £24.95.

For further press information please contact: Laura McKechan, Head of Communications, National Portrait Gallery, Tel. 020 7321 6620, lmckechan@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