

News Release

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National Portrait Gallery Collection to Travel across the UK as *Inspiring People* Redevelopment Begins in July 2020



L-R: King Henry VIII by Hans Holbein the Younger, circa 1536-1537, © National Portrait Gallery, London; King Richard III by Unknown artist © National Portrait Gallery, London; Malala Yousafzai by Shirin Neshat, 2018 © National Portrait Gallery, London

The National Portrait Gallery, London, will share its unique Collection of portraits with the nation in a major programme of activities across the UK, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and a major new grant from Art Fund, as work begins on *Inspiring People*, the Gallery's biggest ever redevelopment, in July 2020.

- **300 portraits a year will travel to regions across the UK from Cornwall to Edinburgh**

Beginning in 2020, this ambitious nationwide programme will show hundreds of works from the National Portrait Gallery's Collection, some of which are rarely loaned, through a series of partnerships and collaborations during the period of redevelopment. The Gallery is also calling for expressions of interest from organisations interested in partnering with them during this time in order to share the Collection around the country as widely as possible.

Inspiring People will transform the National Portrait Gallery. Designed by Jamie Fobert Architects and supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project comprises a comprehensive re-display of the Collection from the Tudors to now, combined with a complete refurbishment of the

building, the creation of new public spaces, a more welcoming visitor entrance and public forecourt, and a new state of the art Learning Centre.

In order to complete the project efficiently and to safeguard visitors, members of staff and the Collection, the Gallery in St Martin's Place will temporarily close to the public from 29 June 2020 until spring 2023, while essential building works take place.



Proposed North Façade entrance and forecourt. Jamie Fobert Architects / image by Forbes Massie Studio.

National Programme of Activities will include:

- New regional exhibitions drawn from the National Portrait Gallery Collection, including an exhibition in partnership with York Art Gallery in 2021, an exhibition of Tudor portraits curated in partnership with the Holburne Museum, Bath, in 2022 and exhibition projects with National Museums Liverpool, Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. These exhibitions will then tour to other UK venues.
- A major partnership with Coventry City of Culture in 2021, that will include *Creative Connections* at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, a co-curated exhibition programme for young people which will result in a new artist commission and the display of up to 40 works from the Gallery's photographic Collection. *Creative Connections* will also run at Museums Sheffield in 2021, Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange, Penzance in 2022 and Southampton City Art Gallery in 2023.
- The Gallery's flagship programme *Coming Home*, supported by £400,000 from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, in which portraits of iconic individuals travel to the places they are most associated with, will continue. New loans in 2020 include Meera Syal travelling to the Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Florence Nightingale to Derby Museum and Art Gallery, Richard III to The Yorkshire Museum in York, following its recent display in Leicester, and Malala Yousafzai, the girls' education activist, who will travel to Aston Hall in Birmingham.

- *Faces of Change*, the Gallery's partnership exhibitions with the National Trust will run throughout 2020 with a new exhibition of portraits from the National Portrait Gallery Collection touring to three different National Trust properties - Mottisfont, Basildon Park and Hughendon.
- A partnership with Royal Museums Greenwich, beginning with the exhibition *Tudors to Windsors: British Royal Portraits*. Opening at the National Maritime Museum in April 2020, it will see over 100 works from the National Portrait Gallery's Collection, spanning 500 years of royal portraiture, go on display in one of London's key royal sites, accompanied by significant pieces from Royal Museums Greenwich and other collections.
- A series of special projects with London's National Gallery, will include the display of the National Portrait Gallery's famous Henry VIII cartoon by Hans Holbein the Younger (1536-1537), shown alongside Holbein's *The Ambassadors*, from the National Gallery Collection, for the first time.
- The Gallery's National Skills and Knowledge exchange programme, which will see the Gallery work with 12 museums and galleries, starting in Belfast, Nottingham, Sudbury and Plymouth, to co-curate displays with strong links between these venues and the National Portrait Gallery's Collection.
- Partnerships with communities and schools across the UK, drawing on the Gallery's Collection, will include *Faces and Places* - a new schools outreach programme in seven London boroughs accompanied by displays in nearby schools, libraries, arts centres and museums; *Citizen UK* - a project working with local heritage and community partners in London and Wolverhampton to explore stories of migration and movement within the UK; and *People Powered* – a series of exhibitions created with partners in London and Teesside, uncovering the experiences of communities involved in creating international and world class exports, such as steel in Middlesbrough or football in Wembley.

International Touring Programme:

- The Gallery will also continue to grow its international programme, representing the best of British history and culture abroad. *Tudors to Windsors* will tour to the Ueno Royal Museum in Tokyo from October - December 2020 in partnership with Fuji TV; and *Love Stories*, an exhibition from the Gallery's Collection, which explores the synergy between portraiture, love and relationships since the 1600s, will premiere in Australia in mid-2020, before travelling on to venues in the United States.

The Gallery has now secured £32.7m of its £35.5m funding target. This includes the £9.4m grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, a £6.5 million grant from the Trustees of the Garfield Weston Foundation towards the creation of a new public wing, £500,000 from the Wolfson Foundation, £400,000 from the Foyle Foundation and £350,000 from the Art Fund. The Gallery is

confident that it will secure the remaining £2.8m before building work commences and is grateful for the support of many members of the public through the *Making History* Appeal.

Quotes

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery said: “This is a unique and important chapter in our history as we embark on our journey to deliver a transformed National Portrait Gallery, which will enable us to become more welcoming and engaging to all and fulfil our role as the nation’s family album. We are delighted to be able to partner with organisations across the UK and internationally to share our Collection to new and existing audiences. We look forward to hearing from other organisations who are interested in working with us during this time, so that we can make the most of this extraordinary opportunity to circulate a national collection as widely as possible in both innovative and collaborative ways.”

Dr Stephen Deuchar, Director, Art Fund said: “Over the years we’ve enjoyed helping the NPG bring many important works of art into its collection, but our latest grant breaks new ground in supporting the Gallery’s innovative and ambitious plan to share its collections with a broader range of audiences than ever before. We share and applaud their commitment to this energetic nationwide programme which will help forge a new kind of NPG altogether.”

Chris Stephens, Director, The Holburne Museum, Bath said: “The Holburne seeks to bring the best art of all periods to Bath and the South-West. I am delighted that the generosity of the National Portrait Gallery's Inspiring People project enables us to work in partnership with the Gallery and others around the country to produce an ambitious exhibition focused on the art of the Tudor period. This is a unique opportunity to exhibit major works of art, rarely shown outside London, from the greatest public collection of art of this fascinating period. It is the most exciting development in the Holburne's long-running and fruitful friendship with the NPG.”

Julie Milne, Chief Curator of Art Galleries, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums said: “TWAM has had a strong relationship with the Gallery dating back over a number of years and having successfully collaborated on many high quality exhibitions and projects we are looking forward to sharing the National Portrait Gallery Collection yet further with visitors in the North East.”

Christopher Baker, Director European and Scottish Art and Portraiture, National Galleries of Scotland said: “We wish the National Portrait Gallery every success with its transformational project, and are delighted to be planning future programming with the gallery in order to share its outstanding collection.”

Sandra Penketh, Executive Director for Galleries and Collections Care Art Galleries, National Museums Liverpool said: ‘We’re looking forward to working closely with the National Portrait Gallery over the next few years in order to deliver a number of projects. From a major exhibition to the display of important ‘works in focus’, we’re sure that our visitors will enjoy welcoming artworks from its diverse and engaging collection to Liverpool.’

www.npg.org.uk

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Note to Editors

Inspiring People

Inspiring People is the National Portrait Gallery's biggest ever development since the building in St Martin's Place opened in 1896. The project will see a transformed National Portrait Gallery, including a comprehensive re-display of the Gallery's Collection from the Tudors to now across 40 refurbished galleries, combined with a complete refurbishment of the building, restoring historic features, creating a new and more welcoming visitor entrance and public forecourt on the building's North Façade, and enhancing the Gallery's accessibility.

The designs by Jamie Fobert Architects, working in partnership with Purcell, will also see the return of the Gallery's East Wing to public use as the new Weston Wing, including restoring the original gallery spaces, the creation of new retail and catering facilities and its own dedicated entrance at street level; and a new Learning Centre for visitors of all ages with studios, breakout spaces and high quality practical facilities. The Gallery's existing entrance will also remain, with new step-free access.

The temporary closure of the building in St Martin's Place will be phased, with some displays closing from late May 2020 leading to full closure in early July 2020. The Portrait Restaurant, Portrait Café and Gallery shops will also be closed from July 2020. Visitors to the Gallery from May 2020 are advised to check the website prior to their visit for the latest information. The Heinz Archive and Library will remain open throughout the redevelopment period for researchers interested in British portraiture and the history of the Gallery.

In addition to the work at St Martin's Place, *Inspiring People* will also see the Gallery's most extensive programme of activities nationwide with plans to engage audiences onsite, locally, regionally and online.

The Gallery launched the *Make History* fundraising campaign in January 2019 to help secure funds for the project. Members of the public can support the appeal in several ways including helping to fund new mosaics, which will form part of Jamie Fobert's design, or adopting one of 18 original stone busts on the exterior of the building. The roundels feature the founders of the Gallery as well as eminent portrait artists, biographical writers and historians including Hans Holbein the Younger.

The Gallery aims to reach its target of £35.5m this year. Westminster City Council Planning Committee granted planning permission and listed building consent in April 2019.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

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Art Fund

Art Fund is the national fundraising charity for art. In the past five years alone Art Fund has given £34 million to help museums and galleries acquire works of art for their collections. It also helps museums share their collections with wider audiences by supporting a range of tours and exhibitions, and makes additional grants to support the training and professional development of curators. Art Fund is independently funded, with the core of its income provided by 151,000 members who receive the National Art Pass and enjoy free entry to over 240 museums, galleries and historic places across the UK, as well as 50% off entry to major exhibitions and subscription to Art Quarterly magazine. In addition to grant-giving, Art Fund's support for museums includes Art Fund Museum of the Year (won by St Fagans National History Museum near Cardiff in 2019) and a range of digital platforms. Find out more about Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org

National Portrait Gallery, London

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.

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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