

News Release

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The National Portrait Gallery Unveils Major New Portrait Commission of Sir Jonathan Ive By Andreas Gursky



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Photos by Darren Gerrish for the National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery has commissioned a major new portrait of designer Sir Jonathan Ive by the photographer Andreas Gursky, supported by Scott Collins in partnership with Outset Contemporary Art Fund. This is the second in a series of three Outset commissions, following on from the first portrait of Malala Yousafzai by the artist Shirin Neshat in 2018.

Jonathan Ive by Andreas Gursky was photographed in March 2019. It is now on public display at the National Portrait Gallery having been commissioned for its permanent Collection. The portrait is as much about Jonathan Ive as it is about Apple, the world's largest technology company, and its seminal new headquarters at Apple Park, California. As one of a few portraits by Andreas Gursky and the only portrait commission he has undertaken for a public museum, it reflects the long-standing professional admiration between them.

Jony Ive is one of the leading figures in contemporary design. As Apple's Chief Design Officer, he is responsible for design, including the look and feel of hardware, user interface, packaging and major architectural projects. Described by founder Steve Jobs as 'his creative partner' Ive joined Apple in 1992. From his early cutting-edge designs for the iMac and iPhone to realising the vision of Apple Park in 2017, his role has been central to Apple's progressive ambition and success. Holding over 5,000 patents, Ive has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from the Royal College of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, and both Cambridge and Oxford Universities. In 2013 Sir Jony was knighted for his services to design and enterprise, and in 2017 he was appointed Chancellor of London's Royal College of Art.



Jonathan Ive by Andreas Gursky, 2019, fine art print on paper mounted on dibond, 136 x 102 cm © Andreas Gursky

Internationally renowned photographer Andreas Gursky has exhibited in biennales and solo shows across the world for over thirty years. He has been the focus of major touring exhibitions including 'Retrospektive 1984 – 2007', 'Andreas Gursky: Works 1980 – 2008' and his latest retrospective at the Hayward Gallery, London, in 2018 commended him as one of the most significant photographers of our time. Born in 1955 in Leipzig, since the mid-1980s Gursky has focused intently on the motif of the landscape and the human existence within it. The fundamental constant in his work is the relationship between individual and mass entity as well as between the single figure and ornamentation. With respect to the present, he further includes in his works iconic images which mirror the complex social developments of globalisation, against the background of the flood of information, current mass phenomena, and visionary architectural concepts.

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, said: "We are delighted to have commissioned this remarkable new portrait, which captures two of the world's foremost creative minds whose ground-breaking work continues to push the boundaries of both technology and photography. I am extremely grateful to Outset Contemporary Art Fund for their support in developing this series of commissions that represents some of the great contemporary icons of the early 21st century."

Sir Jonathan Ive, said: "I have been obsessed with Andreas' work for a couple of decades and vividly remember the thrill of our first meeting seven years ago. His very particular and objective presentation of what he sees, whether

voluminous landscapes or the rhythm and repetition of supermarket shelving is both beautiful and provocative. Mindful that he rarely makes portraits, this is a conspicuous and particular honour for me."

Andreas Gursky, said: "It was fascinating to take photographs in the new Apple HQ, a place that plays such a historically crucial role in our present and future. And above all, it was inspiring to work with Jonathan Ive within this setting. It was he who found the form for the technological revolution that was initiated by Apple and his aesthetic has left a mark on an entire generation. I admire his immense visionary power and have tried to express this energy in my portrait."

Candida Gertler OBE, Director and Co-Founder of Outset Contemporary Art Fund, said: "Outset is delighted to see the second year of this flourishing private-public partnership with Scott Collins and the National Portrait Gallery, which continues to foster the institution's essential collection. Outset has always been at the forefront of supporting culture from the grassroots to the world stage; as the world continues to evolve, it is evermore important to protect the legacy of those who positively impact our lives, starting with the Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai, depicted by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat, and now with Sir Jony Ive, a masterful designer, whose creations revolutionised our lives, by yet another master of its field, Andreas Gursky. At Outset, we always strive for excellence and couldn't be more delighted to be here, celebrating outstanding achievements with great art."

Scott Collins, Managing Director, Summit Partners, L.P., Outset Capital Circle Patron: "It is a sincere privilege to partner with Outset to commission this series of important works for the National Portrait Gallery. I am thrilled in particular this year to help bring together Mr. Gursky, a master of contemporary photography, with Sir Jonathan Ive, a master of contemporary design. What a special combination it is."

For further press information please contact: Susie Gault, Tel. 07775841206 / Email sg@susiegault.com or Laura McKechan, Head of Communications (Interim), National Portrait Gallery, Tel. 020 7321 6620 (not for publication)/Email lmckechan@npg.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

Details of work:

Jonathan Ive by Andreas Gursky, 2019, fine art print on paper mounted on dibond, 136 x 102 cm, © Andreas Gursky

Outset Contemporary Art Fund

Outset Contemporary Art Fund is an international philanthropic organisation which has championed innovative private/public partnerships for over 16 years, in support of the creative ecosystem. Outset achieves this vital role by pooling donations from entrepreneurial patrons and engaged partners to support new art for the widest possible audiences. Addressing the complex pressures facing the creative community globally today, Outset's presence in 9 countries supports art projects benefiting urban and regional communities, artists and curators, keynote publications, and the Outset-led initiative Studiomakers, in support of the Mayor of London's mission to safeguard affordable space for artists and creative professionals for the long term.

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, just off Trafalgar Square, 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. www.npg.org.uk

National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place WC2H 0HE, opening hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday: 10am – 6pm (Gallery closure commences at 5.50pm) **Late Opening:** Friday: 10am – 9pm (Gallery closure commences at 8.50pm) **Nearest Underground:** Leicester Square/Charing Cross **General information:** 0207 306 0055 **Recorded information:** 020 7312 2463 **Website/Tickets:** www.npg.org.uk