

News Release

Strictly Embargoed Until 10.00am on Thursday 12 March 2020

National Portrait Gallery Unveils New Portrait of Andy Murray by Maggi Hambling



**L-R Andy Murray, b.1987 by Maggi Hambling, 2019. Oil on canvas, 1524 x 1219mm © Maggi Hambling;
Andy Murray and Maggi Hambling with the new portrait. Photograph © David Parry and National Portrait Gallery**

The National Portrait Gallery, London has unveiled a new portrait of Olympian and Wimbledon Champion, Andy Murray by Maggi Hambling. The multi-figured portrait will join the Gallery's Collection, accompanied by four preparatory charcoal drawings from life completed in the artist's studio in September last year. The painting and two of the drawings are now on public display in the Gallery until 3 May 2020.

Andy Murray has for many years been a hero for Maggi Hambling and in early 2019 she discovered that he was interested in her work. Following Murray's first visit to the artist's studio in London, the two became friends and Hambling invited him to sit for a portrait. On the morning of 9 September 2019, Murray posed for a series of drawings wearing his Wimbledon whites and the painting then evolved.

Following its display at the National Portrait Gallery in London the work will travel to Scotland, where it will go on display at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.



L-R: Andy Murray with his portrait by Maggi Hambling; Maggi Hambling with her portrait of Andy Murray.
Photographs © David Parry and National Portrait Gallery

Andy Murray said: “Over the last few years I’ve become more interested in art and Maggi is one of my favourite artists, so I was more than happy to sit for a portrait – the first time I’ve done it. It was fascinating watching her work, so much time and effort goes into a painting like this, I hope people appreciate that and how talented she is.”

Maggi Hambling said: “I couldn’t have made this portrait without my passion for tennis — both watching the game and in an appallingly amateur way, playing it. My approach to a portrait is never the same. In this instance the composition arrived not only from the drawings but from my imagination which had been on the boil for some time beforehand, in preparation. Andy’s physicality is at the core of the painting. In contrast to the intimate mobility of her hands in my portrait of Dorothy Hodgkin, the challenge here was the speed of Andy’s whole body as he plays, one stroke flowing into another. The portrait head in combination with his figure in action encourages the eye to move throughout the territory of the canvas.”

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, London said: “We are delighted to have acquired this striking new portrait of Andy Murray, one of the greatest British sporting figures of recent years. Maggi Hambling’s admiration for Murray’s achievements is clear in the portrait’s dynamic composition and gestural vigour and exuberance with which she has painted her sitter. I am particularly pleased that the work be shown at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery after its display in London.”

The portrait is an acquisition by the National Portrait Gallery gifted by a private donor. Andy Murray is also represented in the Gallery’s Collection by a photographic portrait taken by Karl J. Karl in 2006. The Gallery holds eight other works by Maggi Hambling, including portraits of Stephen Fry, Dorothy Hodgkin and George Melly.

Biographies

From winning his first tennis tournament as an under-10 junior at the Dunblane Sports Club to his first junior major at the US Open it became apparent **Andy Murray** was destined for the top. After turning pro in 2005, Murray won his first ATP title, the SAP open in San Jose, a year later. Fast forward two years and seven more tour titles, Murray reached his first grand slam final, the 2008 US Open. However in 2012, having lost in three subsequent grand slam final appearances, he became the US Open Champion, hot on the heels of an illustrious Gold Medal victory at Wimbledon during the London 2012 Olympics. Murray then ended years of British heartbreak on the same turf just a year later by becoming the first British male in 77 years to win the highly coveted Wimbledon

Championships in London in July 2013 and then repeated that feat, capturing his second Wimbledon title in 2016.

Currently with 46 career titles, Andy Murray is Great Britain's most successful tennis player of the Open era, the first Briton to reach 500 ATP match wins and his maiden grand slam title ended Great Britain's 76-year wait for a male grand slam champion. He is also the first ever British world number one in the Open era.

Off court, Murray is known for his stance on gender equality, using his platform to call out sexism, particularly in sport. His choice of Amelie Mauresmo as a coach in 2014 was deemed ground-breaking by the sports' community and Murray regularly speaks up for equal pay for women in tennis. Murray also uses his platform to promote charitable causes close to his heart – he is an ambassador for WWF and Unicef and in 2016 and 2017 hosted his own tennis events, Andy Murray Live, raising £1million for charity in the process.

Maggi Hambling CBE (born 1945, Suffolk) lives and works in London and Suffolk. Hambling studied with Lett Haines and Cedric Morris, and then Ipswich, Camberwell and the Slade Schools of Art. In 1980 she became the First Artist in Residence at the National Gallery, London, and in 1995 won the Jerwood Painting Prize (with Patrick Caulfield). In 1998 her sculpture A conversation with Oscar Wilde was unveiled at Adelaide Street, London, facing Charing Cross Station. In 2003 Scallop, a sculpture to celebrate Benjamin Britten was unveiled at Aldeburgh, Suffolk and was in 2005 awarded the Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture for Scallop. Her work is represented in major collections internationally, and in the UK these include the National Portrait Gallery, British Museum, Tate, Victoria and Albert Museum, and National Gallery. Recent museum shows include Maggi Hambling : Walls of water at the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, Russia (2013) and the National Gallery, London (2014), War Requiem & Aftermath at Somerset House (2015), Maggi Hambling : Touch a retrospective of works on paper at the British Museum (2016), The Quick And The Dead : Hambling Horsley Lucas Simmons Teller at Hastings Contemporary (2018), Maggi Hambling : For Beauty Is Nothing But The Beginning Of Terror at both CAFA Museum, Beijing and Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China (2019)

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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: 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