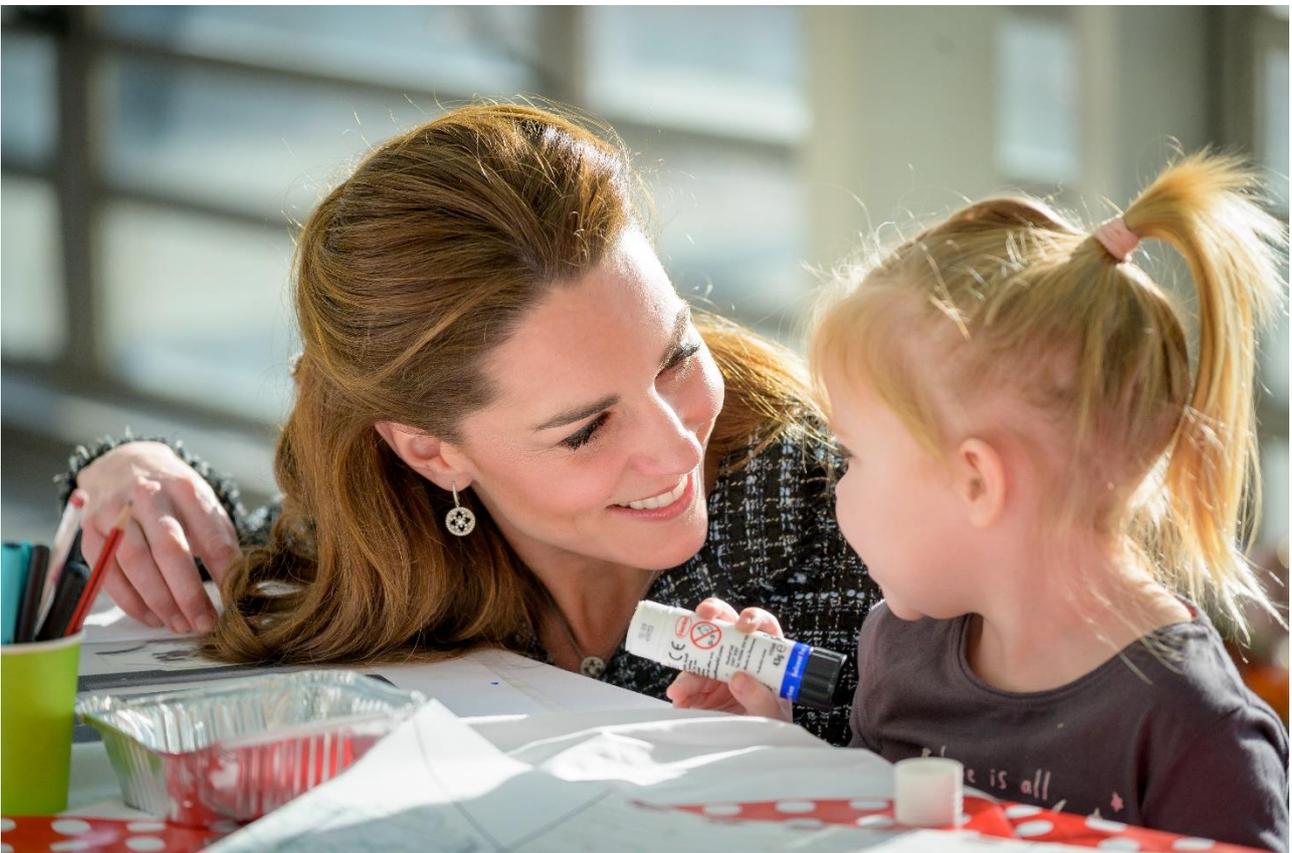


News Release

Tuesday 28 January 2020

The Duchess of Cambridge visits National Portrait Gallery creative arts workshop at Evelina London Children's Hospital



Photography by David Tett

The Duchess of Cambridge met children, young people and their families taking part in a creative arts workshop, led by the National Portrait Gallery, at Evelina London Children's Hospital on Tuesday 28 January. The workshop is part of the National Portrait Gallery's Hospital Programme, which supports health, wellbeing and happiness through arts programming inspired by portraits and stories from the Gallery's Collection.

During her visit, The Duchess, who is Patron of both the National Portrait Gallery and Evelina London, joined children and young people receiving care at the hospital as they took part in activities inspired by the Gallery's portrait of actor Ben Whishaw. The workshop saw the children create their own decorated stage set with a self-portrait puppet and cast of characters.

The workshop is inspired by the Gallery's activity book, *Playful Portraits*, created by Quinton Winter. This free resource is gifted to each child receiving care at the hospital, to encourage play, making, reading, learning, writing and creativity. Young people can use the resource on their own, with their families, whilst on the ward and at home. *Playful Portraits* features a range of sitters from the Gallery's Collection including girls' education activist, Malala Yousafzai; chemist and crystallographer Dorothy Hodgkin; Paralympian David Weir; the Bronte Sisters, and physician Harold Moody.

Nine-year-old Anna-Victoria Amoafa-Sennie, who took part in the workshop, said: "It was very exciting and surprising because we'd seen her on the TV, but we'd never seen her in real life!" Anna-Victoria also presented The Duchess with a posy when she arrived at the hospital.

Anna-Victoria's mother Irene, from Redbridge, Essex, said: "It was so lovely to see Anna-Victoria meeting The Duchess. She was so happy and excited! It was so wonderful and something that she'll never ever forget."



Photography by David Tett

The National Portrait Gallery's Hospital Programme runs at four children's hospitals in London: Evelina London, Great Ormond Street Hospital, Newham University Hospital and The Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel. Working in close collaboration with play therapists and specialists, nursing staff and hospital teachers, the Gallery takes artists into each hospital to deliver 60 workshops a year to children of all ages, and their siblings and parents. Activities take place on the ward, in activity centres or by the bedside. Over the past 15 years over 20,000 children, (aged 0-18), have benefitted from the creative workshop activities, which include photography, animation, sculpture, textiles, painting, performance and drawings. The Programme is funded by Get Living, Delancey and DIL Trust UK.

Evelina London, which is part of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, of which The Queen is Patron, recently celebrated 150 years of caring for children and young people. The hospital provides comprehensive health services to children and families from before birth, throughout childhood and into adult life. Evelina London also offers specialist services for children with rare and complex conditions from across south London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex and beyond.

The Duchess has been a Patron of the National Portrait Gallery since 2012. Her Royal Highness became Patron of Evelina London in 2018.



Photography by David Tett

Quotes:

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, London said: "It is an honour to share with our Patron, The Duchess of Cambridge, the vital work we do at Evelina London and other children's hospitals in the capital. We are immensely proud of our Hospital Programme, which demonstrates the positive impact art and creativity can have on health and wellbeing, and enables us to share our Collection with those who may not have had the opportunity to experience it previously. We are grateful to Delancey, Get Living and DIL Trust UK for their generous support, which enables the programme to take place."

Marian Ridley, Director of Evelina London said: "We are extremely proud to host the National Portrait Gallery's creative arts workshop and delighted to be joined by Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge, who is Royal Patron of both the National Portrait Gallery and Evelina London, to see the excellent work that they do. Art is an invaluable therapy for children and young people while they are in hospital, not only to develop their creativity, but to provide enjoyment that alleviates anxieties which they may be feeling. It is a great pleasure to have The Duchess with us to see our young artists letting their imaginations run wild and we are thoroughly grateful to our partners at the National Portrait Gallery for everything that they do."

Jamie Ritblat, Founder and CEO of Delancey said: "We are delighted to support the National Portrait Gallery's Hospital Programme which provides children with the opportunity to learn and grow creatively whilst in a hospital environment. We have continuously seen the positive effects on not only the children across these four London hospitals but also their families, who are left inspired and uplifted by the activities. The programme is supported by a wonderful team and we'd like to thank them for all their hard work."

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Press images can be downloaded at any time from <https://we.tl.t-4SacvUU1AG>

Notes to Editors

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

Evelina London Children's Hospital

1. Evelina London Children's Hospital is part of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk
2. Every year, Evelina London cares for more than 95,000 children and young people in hospital and in the community.
3. Facilities include 215 inpatient beds, a 30-bed paediatric intensive care unit, a 52-cot neonatal intensive care unit, six dedicated children's operating theatres, and a kidney dialysis unit.
4. Evelina London cares for children from across south east London, and is also a regional referral centre, admitting children from all over the south east of England for highly specialist care.
5. Evelina London isn't like other hospitals. It's only for children and young people – and it was designed by children, for children, to make every child who comes through our doors feel as safe, supported and special as possible
6. To support or donate to Evelina London visit <http://www.supportevelina.org.uk/> or text 'Evelina' to 70800 to donate £5