

News Release

Embargoed until Wednesday 16 March 2022, 00.01

Newly acquired portraits of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge displayed publicly for the first time

Photographs taken by Paolo Roversi to mark The Duchess' 40th birthday will be displayed at St James the Less Church Pangbourne, Reading Museum, Wardlaw Museum and Oriel Môn



L-R: The Duchess of Cambridge by Paolo Roversi, 2021 © Paolo Roversi. Released to mark the occasion of The Duchess's 40th birthday in January 2022.

Following their acquisition into the Gallery's permanent Collection, three portraits taken to mark the occasion of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cambridge's 40th birthday will be displayed at four venues in three respective locations across the UK – Berkshire, St Andrews and Anglesey.

The photographs, taken by photographer Paolo Roversi in November 2021, will feature as part of the National Portrait Gallery's *Coming Home* project, which sees the Gallery lend portraits of well-known individuals to places with which they are closely associated. The project has enabled works from the Gallery's national Collection to travel to towns and cities across the UK, providing communities with the opportunity to see iconic works locally, while the Gallery remains closed for its *Inspiring People* redevelopment.

The locations that Roversi's three portraits will travel to were selected in consultation with The Duchess herself, who has a special affinity to each.

The photograph that depicts The Duchess seated, gazing to the left, will be displayed firstly at St James the Less Church from 22 March to 5 April 2022, then at Reading Museum from 7 April to 4 June 2022. The Church, situated in the village of Pangbourne, has welcomed the Middleton family as parishioners over several generations and the Reading Museum was chosen due to its proximity to the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where The Duchess was born.

The photograph of The Duchess dressed in red will be displayed between 13 June and 30 September 2022 at the Wardlaw Museum, University of St Andrews, where The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge met while studying. The third photograph in Roversi's series shows The Duchess in a white dress, smiling straight at the camera. This portrait will be displayed at Anglesey's Oriel Môn between 16 July and 2 October 2022, where The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge first lived together in their early years of marriage.

Paolo Roversi is one of the most highly respected and influential image-makers of our time. Often working in the studio, he uses both traditional and digital techniques to create ethereal and soulful portraits. For this series, The Duchess and Roversi took inspiration from nineteenth-century photography, which was the subject of Her Royal Highness' undergraduate thesis at the University of St. Andrews.

Nicholas Cullinan, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, said: "The Duchess of Cambridge has been a very committed Patron of the National Portrait Gallery since 2012, reflecting a great interest in photography and portraiture. As one of her first and earliest patronages, we are delighted to be sharing Paolo Roversi's wonderful portraits, taking each to a place of resonance across the United Kingdom for Her Royal Highness as part of our Coming Home project."

ENDS

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact:

Poppy Andrews, Senior Communications Manager, pandrews@npg.org.uk, +44 (0)7535 667948

Notes to Editors

Coming Home is supported by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, by generous contributions from The Thompson Family Charitable Trust, and by funds raised at the gallery's Portrait Gala in 2017.

www.npg.org.uk/cominghome

#PortraitsComingHome

These portraits can be visited by all and are free of charge to view in the following locations:

- St James the Less Church, Pangbourne, 22 March – 5 April 2022
- Reading Museum, Berkshire, 7 April – 4 June 2022
- Wardlaw Museum, University of St Andrews, 13 June – 30 September 2022

- Oriel Môn, Anglesey, 16 July – 2 October 2022

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 in St Martin's Place, London is currently closed until 2023, while essential building works take place on the *Inspiring People* redevelopment project, which will transform the Gallery, including a complete refurbishment of the building and a new learning centre. During the closure period, the Gallery will continue to share its Collection through its digital channels and a series of nationwide partnerships and collaborations.

www.npg.org.uk