



National
Portrait
Gallery

News Release

22 February 2022

bp and the National Portrait Gallery announce end of partnership

bp and the National Portrait Gallery have together confirmed that their partnership will not extend beyond December 2022, when their current contract comes to an end.

Throughout the partnership, which spans more than 30 years, bp's support of the Gallery's *Portrait Award*, one of the longest running cultural events in London, has enabled more than six million visitors to enjoy free admission to the exhibition and contributed to the career development of more than 1,500 portrait artists, from aspiring young painters to established professionals.

The announcement by bp and the National Portrait Gallery comes as bp reviews its partnerships and initiatives to ensure activity is aligned to its new strategy.

Louise Kingham CBE, Senior Vice President, Europe & Head of Country, UK at bp, said: "We are immensely proud of our role in championing British arts and culture for over 30 years, but the bp of today is a very different company from when we first started our partnership with the National Portrait Gallery. As we transition to become net-zero by 2050 and help the world get there too, we must look at new ways to best use our talent, experience, and resources.

"What the National Portrait Gallery continues to provide and showcase for the public is outstanding and we couldn't be more honoured to have helped support them. We have enjoyed a close partnership throughout and wish them every success for the future."

Nicholas Cullinan, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, said: "The Gallery is hugely grateful to bp for its long-term support of the *BP Portrait Award*. Its funding for the *Award* has fostered creativity, encouraged portrait painting for over 30 years and given a platform to artists from around the world, as well as providing inspiration and enjoyment for audiences across the UK.

The Gallery is committed to working with artists and continuing to promote portraiture and we look forward to developing the future *Portrait Award* as we plan for our reopening in 2023."

ENDS

For further press information, please contact:

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

bp Press Office, London: bppress@bp.com, +44 (0)7831 095541, +44 (0)7919 217511

Notes to Editors

bp's current sponsorship of the *BP Portrait Award* ends in 2022. The *BP Portrait Award* is not being staged in 2021 and 2022 while the National Portrait Gallery's building in St Martin's Place is closed for redevelopment. bp is generously honouring the sponsorship contract and the remaining funds will support the Gallery's work.

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.

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