



# NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

## News release

Wednesday 25 January 2023

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## National Portrait Gallery announces line up of major exhibitions to mark its reopening in June 2023

Showcasing photography, painting and drawing, exhibition highlights in the Gallery's reopening year include displays of pioneering female photographers, such as Yevonde, new work by David Hockney, paintings by leading Black artists and a first look at the intimate, never-before-seen portraits of The Beatles, taken by Paul McCartney.

- The Gallery's reopening and its programme is supported by Bank of America, Bloomberg Philanthropies, CHANEL Culture Fund, Herbert Smith Freehills and Taylor Wessing
- The transformational Inspiring People project has been made possible by major grants from the Blavatnik Family Foundation, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Garfield Weston Foundation and the Ross Foundation



L-R: *Vivien Leigh* by Yevonde (1936, printed 2022-3), purchased with the Portrait Fund, 2021 © National Portrait Gallery, London; *John and George, Paris. 1964* © 1964 Paul McCartney; *Untitled (Painter)* by Kerry James Marshall, 2009, Acrylic on PVC, Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, gift of Katherine S. Schamberg by exchange, 2009.15. Photo: Nathan Keay, © MCA Chicago.

Today, the National Portrait Gallery announce that after the largest redevelopment in its history, its doors will reopen again on 22 June 2023, with a programme of major exhibitions. Tickets for Summer 2023 exhibitions are available to book in advance from today at [npg.org.uk](http://npg.org.uk).

The Gallery is supported by Reopening Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills, longstanding partner of the National Portrait Gallery. Tickets for the Summer exhibitions are supported by Principal Partner of the new National Portrait Gallery, Bank of America.



## Summer 2023

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L-R: *Vivien Leigh* by Yevonde (1936, printed 2022-3), purchased with the Portrait Fund, 2021 © National Portrait Gallery, London; *Mask (Rosemary Chance)* by Yevonde (1938, printed 2022-3), purchased with the Portrait Fund, 2021 © National Portrait Gallery, London.

### Yevonde: Life and Colour 22 June – 15 October 2023

The first exhibition to open as part of the Gallery's 2023 programme will explore the life and career of the twentieth century photographer, Yevonde, who pioneered the use of colour photography in the 1930s. *Yevonde: Life and Colour* (22 June – 15 October 2023) will survey the portraits and still-life works that the artist produced throughout her sixty year career, positioning Yevonde as a trailblazer in the history of British portrait photography. Supported by the CHANEL Culture Fund, the exhibition builds on *Reframing Narratives: Women in Portraiture*, a major three-year project that aims to enhance the representation of women in the Gallery's Collection. Reflecting the growing independence of women at that time, this exhibition will focus on the freedom photography afforded Yevonde, who became an innovator in new techniques, experimenting with solarisation and the Vivex colour process. *Yevonde: Life and Colour* will include new prints and present discoveries, made possible through the research, cataloguing and digitisation of Yevonde's archive, acquired by the Gallery in 2021.

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*Self-portraits in a mirror. Paris, 1964* © 1964 Paul McCartney.

### Paul McCartney Photographs 1963-64: Eyes of the Storm 28 June – 1 October 2023

In the week that follows the Gallery's reopening, the National Portrait Gallery is proud to present the major exhibition, *Paul McCartney Photographs 1963-64: Eyes of the Storm* (28 June – 1 October 2023). This unprecedented display that will share, for the first time, an extraordinary archive of rediscovered and never-before-seen photographs taken by Paul McCartney. Supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, this exhibition will focus on the portraits captured by McCartney using his own camera between December 1963 and February 1964, the period in which John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr were propelled from being the most popular band in Britain to an international cultural phenomenon. Drawn from McCartney's own archive, this exhibition provides a uniquely personal and never-before-seen perspective on what it was like to be a 'Beatle' at the start of 'Beatlemania' – from gigs in Liverpool and London to performing on The Ed Sullivan Show in New York to an unparalleled television audience of 73 million people. At a time when so many camera lenses were on the band, these photographs will share fresh insight into their experiences, their fans and the early 1960s, all through eyes of Paul McCartney.



## Autumn 2023

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L-R: *Celia, Carennac, August 1971* by David Hockney, Colored pencil on paper © David Hockney, Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt, Collection The David Hockney Foundation; *Self Portrait, 22nd November 2021* by David Hockney, Acrylic on canvas © David Hockney, Photo Credit: Jonathan Wilkinson.

### David Hockney: Drawing from Life 2 November 2023 – 21 January 2024

The Gallery's autumn programme will see the return of the five-star exhibition, *David Hockney: Drawing from Life* (2 November 2023 – 21 January 2024), which was staged for just 20 days before the Gallery's closure due to Covid in March 2020. Recognised as one of the great draughtsmen of all time and a champion of the practice, drawing has been a constant for Hockney. The exhibition explores the artist's work over the last six decades through his intimate portraits of five sitters: his mother, Celia Birtwell, Gregory Evans, Maurice Payne and the artist himself. His familiarity with the sitters enables him to work with a range of mediums and styles, from pencil, pen and ink and crayon, to photographic collage and the iPad. The 2023 exhibition will also debut a selection of new portraits, which depict friends and visitors to the artist's Normandy studio between 2020 and 2022.



L-R: *Vogue House* by Frederic Aranda (October 2021) © Frederic Aranda; *Peter & Sue* from the series *Modern Love* by Curtis Hughes (April 2022) © Curtis Hughes.

### Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize 9 November 2023 – 25 February 2024

The Gallery's annual *Photographic Portrait Prize* will be renamed the *Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize* (9 November 2023 – 25 February 2024) to mark the exhibition's return to the Gallery after two years at Cromwell Place. As one of the leading photography awards in the world, the *Taylor Wessing Photo Portrait Prize* showcases the work of some of the most exciting and cutting-edge contemporary photographers. The competition is open to everyone aged 18 and over, whether professional, a talented amateur or an exciting emerging artist. Photographers are encouraged to interpret 'portrait' in its widest sense, with 'photography focused on portraying people with an emphasis on their identity as individuals.' The winner of the competition will receive £15,000, with second prize receiving £3,000 and third prize £2,000.



## Winter 2023/2024

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L-R: *Untitled (Painter)* by Kerry James Marshall, 2009, Acrylic on PVC, Collection Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, gift of Katherine S. Schamberg by exchange, 2009.15. Photo: Nathan Keay, © MCA Chicago. *Kampala Suburb* by Michael Armitage (2014). Oil on Lubugo bark cloth © Michael Armitage. Photo © White Cube (Prudence Cuming Associates Ltd).

### The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure 22 February – 19 May 2024

In February 2024, the Gallery will stage a major survey of African diasporic artists working in the UK and America, whose work in painting and drawing foregrounds the Black figure. Curated by Ekow Eshun, former Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, *The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure* (22 February – 19 May 2024) will showcase the work of contemporary artists including Hurvin Anderson, Michael Armitage, Jordan Casteel, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Noah Davis, Lubaina Himid, Claudette Johnson, Titus Kaphar, Kerry James Marshall, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Nathaniel Mary Quinn, Amy Sherald, Henry Taylor and Barbara Walker. Celebrating artists who work with figuration as a means of illuminating the richness and complexity of Black life, this exhibition will consider how artists depict the Black form, both against a social backdrop of high cultural visibility and continued social vulnerability, as well as to address the absence of Black presence within Western art history. Within this context, exhibited portraits will examine the aesthetic, psychological and political considerations involved in representing blackness.

## Spring 2024

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L-R: *Sadness (Ellen Terry)* by Julia Margaret Cameron (DETAIL) (1864) Albumen silver print. The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, 84.XZ.186.52; *Polka Dot #5, Providence, Rhode Island* by Francesca Woodman (1976) Gelatin silver print. Courtesy Woodman Family Foundation © Woodman Family Foundation / DACS, London.

### Francesca Woodman and Julia Margaret Cameron: Portraits to Dream In 21 March – 30 June 2024

The final exhibition within the National Portrait Gallery's year-long programme will be *Francesca Woodman and Julia Margaret Cameron: Portraits to Dream In* (21 March – 30 June 2024). This new exhibition will juxtapose the lives and work of two of the most important and influential practitioners in the history of photography. Showcasing more than 150 rare vintage prints, the exhibition will span the entire career of both artists – who worked 100 years apart – and include examples of both their best known and less familiar work. In ways that tantalisingly intersect and diverge, portraiture was fundamentally important to the artistic project of both women. This exhibition will explore the idea that Woodman and Cameron share an engagement with portraiture as a 'dream space.' The title makes reference to the idea that these photographic portraits



are not intended to mimic reality, but conjure notions of imagination, beauty, symbolism, transformation and storytelling. Considering both artists in a different light, *Francesca Woodman and Julia Margaret Cameron: Portraits to Dream In* will propose new ways of appreciating and thinking about the artists, portraiture and the relationships between 19th and 20th century photographic practices.

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The National Portrait Gallery is pleased to offer a new £5 ticket for its Summer 2023 season of exhibitions, available to all visitors aged 30 and under. Supported by the Principal Partner of the new National Portrait Gallery – Bank of America – reduced £5 tickets for Yevonde: Life and Colour and Paul McCartney Photographs 1963-64: Eyes of the Storm will be available to all visitors aged 30 and under, seven days a week.

In addition to the Gallery's year-long programme of exhibitions, visitors to the new Gallery will experience a complete redisplay of the Collection and a transformational refurbishment of the building, as well as an enhanced welcome and greater access through the new Ross Place entrance. The designs, by Jamie Fobert Architects working in partnership with Purcell, will also see the return of the Gallery's East Wing to public use as the Weston Wing, restoring original gallery spaces and creating new retail and catering facilities. The first floor will become The Blavatnik Wing, encompassing nine galleries, which will explore society and culture in the 19th and early 20th centuries. A new Learning Centre will welcome visitors of all ages with studios, breakout spaces, and high-quality facilities. The Gallery's reopening is supported by Reopening Partner Herbert Smith Freehills, longstanding supporter of the National Portrait Gallery.

Complementing the redisplay of the Gallery's Collection, a new publication is [available to pre-order](#) from the Gallery's online shop from today, 25 January 2023. National Portrait Gallery: The Collection is a guide to the new Gallery, featuring key works from the Collection from the 1500s to the present day. The publication includes an introduction from the Gallery's Director, Dr Nicholas Cullinan, and highlights key milestones in the Gallery's history, as well as new works acquired for the Collection.

*"We can't wait to open again as we welcome visitors into the new National Portrait Gallery on 22 June. Our programme of exhibitions for our first year presents some of the world's best known artists in a fresh light, contains extraordinary and never-before-seen images, uncovers the work of remarkable innovators, charts important cultural terrain and showcases the greatest contemporary portraiture. I am delighted to be working with such a range of incredible artists and supportive organisations to deliver our most ambitious and innovative programme to date, as we make sure the new National Portrait Gallery is more alive and exciting than ever."*

Dr Nicholas Cullinan  
Director, National Portrait Gallery

*"It's widely believed that art often imitates life, yet it is only by appreciating the rich blend of our artistic and cultural history, that we create an environment where everyone feels valued. We are delighted to continue our long-standing relationship with the National Portrait Gallery – an organisation uniquely placed to showcase the rich tapestry of our social history and build an understanding of what binds us together."*

Alison Brown  
Executive Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills

*"At Bank of America, we believe that the arts strengthen human connections and contribute to greater cultural understanding. We are honoured to be Principal Partner of the new National Portrait Gallery. This partnership sees the launch of the reduced £5 tickets program, available to all visitors aged 30 and under, seven days a week. Together with further community outreach, we hope this offering opens the arts to a wider audience and encourages many more young people to access, experience and enjoy the Gallery."*

Andrea Sullivan  
International Head of Environmental, Social and Governance, Bank of America

The Gallery's transformational redevelopment project, *Inspiring People*, has been made possible by major grants from the Blavatnik Family Foundation and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, as well as major donations from the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Ross Foundation, Mildred and Simon Palley, Julia and Hans Rausing, the David and Claudia Harding Foundation, Bjorn and Inger Saven, the Law Family Charitable Foundation, the Deborah Loeb Brice Foundation and Art Fund. The National Portrait Gallery is grateful to these visionary supporters, alongside others who are making the building project and its related activity possible.

Since closure, the National Portrait Gallery has facilitated a number of ambitious partnerships with museums, local groups and schools to bring its Collection closer to communities across the UK. Collaborative exhibitions have enabled the Gallery to share hundreds of works across the country – from St Andrews to Swansea, and Cornwall to Coventry – while generating new community-led insights on the Collection. As part of *Coming Home*, a project that returned portraits of iconic sitters to their home regions, the Gallery exhibited over 30 portraits, including Malala Yousafzai, LS Lowry and David Beckham, in places of respective significance – Birmingham, Salford and London's Whipps Cross Hospital. Significant exhibitions on the Tudors and Bloomsbury, drawn from the Collection, were held in Bath and Liverpool, and Sheffield, York and Rome respectively. In 2020, the Gallery undertook one of the most ambitious projects in its history, a public exhibition called *Hold Still*. Resulting in a unique collective portrait of the UK during the first national lockdown, spearheaded by the Gallery's Patron, Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, the Gallery received over 31,500 photographic entries from all corners of the UK. A hundred of these photographs were featured in a digital exhibition and a nationwide outdoor display, seen by 5 million people. In addition to these UK-based projects, the Gallery shared hundreds of portraits with international museums and galleries throughout its closure, with portraits travelling to Australia, China, Italy, the Netherlands, South Korea, Taiwan and the United States of America.

**ENDS**

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#### Notes to editors

National Portrait Gallery Membership offers free unlimited access to our reopening year of exhibitions. An annual subscription starts from just £5.50 a month: [npg.org.uk/members](http://npg.org.uk/members)

National Portrait Gallery: The Collection is available to pre-order from the Gallery's online shop from today, 25 January 2023: [npgshop.org.uk/products/national-portrait-gallery-the-collection-paperback-book](http://npgshop.org.uk/products/national-portrait-gallery-the-collection-paperback-book)

#### National Portrait Gallery

Founded in 1856, the National Portrait Gallery tells the story of Britain through portraits, using art to bring history to life and explore living today. From global icons, to unsung heroes, our Collection is filled with the stories that have shaped, and continue to shape a nation. We celebrate the power of portraiture and offer encounters with some of the world's greatest and most exciting new artists, promoting 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 22 June 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, we have continued to share our Collection digitally, as well as through a series of nationwide partnerships and collaborations.  
[www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

Collaborators on the *Inspiring People* project include Jamie Fobert Architects; conservation architects, Purcell; structural engineers, Price & Myers; services engineers, Max Fordham; project manager, Gardiner & Theobald; main contractor, Gilbert Ash; and interpretation designers, Nissen Richards Studio

#### Herbert Smith Freehills

Operating from 25 offices across Asia Pacific, EMEA and North America, Herbert Smith Freehills is at the heart of the new global business landscape providing premium quality, full-service legal advice. The firm provides many of the world's most important organisations with access to market-leading dispute resolution, projects and transactional legal advice, combined with expertise in a number of global industry sectors, including Technology, Banks, Consumer Products, Energy, Financial Buyers, Infrastructure & Transport, Mining, Pharmaceuticals & Healthcare, Real Estate, and Manufacturing & Industrials.

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#### CHANEL Culture Fund

The CHANEL Culture Fund partners locally for global impact, promoting the singular approach of the House of CHANEL across the arts. Extending a century of philanthropic cultural commitment, its goals are to spotlight women artists, advance the new and the next, and to activate history to define the future. CHANEL is also committing to a series of long-term partnerships with leading cultural institutions around the world to create new programmes that will support innovation in creative and cultural thinking. Partnerships include the National Portrait Gallery [London], The Centre Pompidou [Paris] and Power Station of Art [Shanghai].

#### Bloomberg Philanthropies

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in cities and countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: the Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg's giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a pro bono consultancy that works in cities around the world. For more information, please visit [bloomberg.org](http://bloomberg.org) or follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bloomberg.org), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/bloomberg.org), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/bloomberg.org) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/bloomberg.org).

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