



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

News release

Monday 17 April 2023

National Portrait Gallery announces new Mildred and Simon Palley Learning Centre ahead of reopening thanks to generous support

A multi-million pound donation from philanthropists Mildred and Simon Palley supports the Gallery's new Learning Centre, a state-of-the-art facility for all visitors.

Thanks to further support from the Law Family Charitable Foundation and the Clore Duffield Foundation, the development comprises new spaces – including The Law Photography Studio, The Clore Studio and The Mildred Garden – which significantly increases the footprint of active learning spaces at the Gallery.



L-R: The Mildred and Simon Palley Learning Studio © David Parry; A visualisation of The Mildred Garden by Jamie Fobert Architects © Forbes Massie; A visualisation of The Mildred and Simon Palley Learning Centre by Jamie Fobert Architects © Forbes Massie.

Today, the National Portrait Gallery announces the name of its new state-of-the-art learning facility, **The Mildred and Simon Palley Learning Centre**. Developed as part of the Gallery's transformational *Inspiring People* project, the new Centre will provide spaces for learners of all ages to better connect with the world's largest collection of portraits when the Gallery reopens on 22 June 2023.

Made fully accessible for the first time, The Mildred and Simon Palley Learning Centre will have its own dedicated entrance on St Martin's Place, renovated as part of the largest redevelopment project in the Gallery's history. Now comprising three new studios, a gallery and an outdoor space, the footprint of active learning spaces at the Gallery has significantly increased since 2020.

The Centre's new studios – The Law Photography Studio, The Art Studio and The Clore Studio – will host the Gallery's creative programmes, co-curated with artists for schools, young people and



adults alike. From photography workshops to painting tutorials with artists, these programmes will develop practical skills, increasing visitors' access to experts including artists, writers and practitioners, while extending their knowledge and understanding of portraiture and its practice. In addition to these studios, the Mildred and Simon Palley Learning Centre will house a new Studio Gallery for special displays, some curated by learners themselves, and a studio extension in the light well of the Gallery, increasing the internal footprint of the Law and Clore studios, as well as the new Mildred Garden, a unique outdoor space situated beneath the Gallery's new forecourt and entrance.

"The creation of our new Mildred and Simon Palley Learning Centre has more than doubled the Gallery's provision for learners, with welcoming and stimulating 'open studios' now available for all to enjoy. Visitors will be able to engage with portraiture in ways that just weren't possible prior to our redevelopment, thanks to the capabilities of the new space. Thank you to Mildred and Simon Palley, the Law Family Charitable Foundation and the Clore Duffield Foundation for making this transformative new Centre and its studios a reality for our visitors."

Dr Nicholas Cullinan
Director, National Portrait Gallery

"We are delighted to continue our support of the National Portrait Gallery, with their excellent learning programmes for all ages. The Mildred Garden will be a place for outdoor inspiration and peaceful contemplation."

Mildred and Simon Palley
Philanthropists

The National Portrait Gallery will reopening on 22 June 2023, following its major transformational redevelopment project, *Inspiring People*. *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 Clore Duffield 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.

ENDS

For further press information, images and interview requests please contact:
Poppy Andrews, Senior Communications Manager
pandrews@npg.org.uk

Notes to editors

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

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.

Mildred and Simon Palley

Mildred and Simon Palley have been long-time supporters of the National Portrait Gallery. In 2012, Midge worked with the Learning team to develop the four year funded project Creative Connections, to work with GCSE students in schools to increase their sense of confidence and wellbeing. The Mildred Fund will be working with the Learning team to support young people (14-19 year olds) in a multi-year project.

The Clore Duffield Foundation

The Foundation was established by Sir Charles Clore in 1964 and is now chaired by his daughter, Dame Vivien Duffield. It supports UK charities working in the arts, education, social welfare and health. The Foundation enhances Jewish cultural life through support for JW3, the Jewish arts and community centre in London.

The Law Family Charitable Foundation

The Law Family Charitable Foundation was set up in 2011 by Andrew and Zoë Law.