



NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

News release

Embargoed until 00.01 on 22 April 2023

New portrait of campaigner Baroness Doreen Lawrence unveiled to mark Stephen Lawrence Day

30 years since the death of Stephen Lawrence on 22 April 1993, the National Portrait Gallery unveils a new commission for its gallery of 'History Makers' – a portrait of Baroness Doreen Lawrence by Thomas Ganter.

The new commission will be displayed in The National Lottery Heritage Fund Gallery upon reopening in June.



Baroness Doreen Lawrence with Thomas Ganter's portrait © David Parry.

In commemoration of the 4th annual Stephen Lawrence Day and the 30th anniversary of his death, the National Portrait Gallery announce a new commission for its gallery of 'History Makers,' a newly commissioned portrait of Baroness Doreen Lawrence by artist Thomas Ganter. The portrait will be on display in The National Lottery Heritage Fund Gallery when the National Portrait Gallery reopens on 22 June 2023, as part of a display celebrating individuals who have had a significant impact on recent British history and culture. The portrait will be displayed alongside other recent acquisitions and commissions including Sir Peter Blake's portrait of Glastonbury Festival founder Sir Michael Eavis, Maggi Hambling's portrait of Wimbledon Champion Andy Murray and Michael Armitage's tapestry of key workers.



Born in Clarendon, Jamaica in 1952, Doreen Lawrence emigrated to England at the age of 9 where she completed her education. After the death of her son, Stephen, in a racist attack in 1993 and a campaign to recognise the mishandling of the case by the Metropolitan Police, Baroness Lawrence has become a key figurehead in campaigning for equality and inclusivity. Following 22 years as the Founding Director and President of the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, she stepped down to establish the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation in January 2020 which is the only charity that bears his name. In 2003, Baroness Lawrence was awarded an OBE for services to community relations and became a life peer in 2013.

Since 2019, Stephen Lawrence Day has been celebrated annually on 22 April, creating a national moment to commemorate Stephen's life and legacy, and bring awareness to racial inequality in the UK and beyond.

"When I was first approached about the portrait from the National Portrait Gallery I was really surprised. I was very honored to be asked."

"My favourite portrait in the National Portrait Gallery is Mary Seacole, because she reflects what it is to be somebody who wants to help and support others, which is what I try to do over the years...I think it's a symbol and I'm hoping that people see my portrait as a symbol."

Baroness Doreen Lawrence
Campaigner

"Baroness Lawrence is a remarkable woman, and we all owe her a debt of gratitude for channeling the terrible loss of her son Stephen thirty years ago into a brave and transcendent campaign for social justice. It's an honour to have her portrait on our walls when we reopen with this beautiful painting by Thomas Ganter."

Dr Nicholas Cullinan
Director, National Portrait Gallery

This portrait of Baroness Doreen Lawrence is the first work by Thomas Ganter to enter the National Portrait Gallery's Collection. The Frankfurt-based artist received first place in the prestigious *Portrait Award* in 2014 with his work *Man with a Plaid Blanket*. Following a single session with Baroness Lawrence, Ganter worked on the composition independently, pulling key components from his reference images. In this work, the flower details on the Baroness' dress have been elevated for extra significance.

"I wanted to highlight the flowers in order to give them special attention. Flowers can be a sign of hope, like first flowers in spring. Flowers can also be signs of impermanence, because their lifespan is only short. In return, they donate new life so that a fruit can grow. But these are only possible interpretations and everyone has to find their own."

Thomas Ganter
Artist

Baroness Doreen Lawrence by Thomas Ganter features in the new book, *National Portrait Gallery: The Collection*, published to coincide with the Gallery's 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 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.

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



The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £46 billion for projects and more than 670,000 grants have been awarded across the UK. More than £30 million raised each week goes to good causes across the UK.

The Blavatnik Family Foundation

The Blavatnik Family Foundation supports world-renowned educational, scientific, cultural, and charitable institutions in the United States, the United Kingdom, Israel, and across the globe. Led by Sir Leonard Blavatnik, founder and chairman of Access Industries, the Foundation advances and promotes innovation, discovery, and creativity to benefit the whole of society. Over the past decade, the Foundation has contributed more than \$1 billion to over 250 organizations.

The Garfield Weston Foundation

Established in 1958, the Garfield Weston Foundation is a family-founded charitable grant-making trust, which gives away around £90 million a year to charities across the UK. Each year the Foundation gives away its income and donations have continued to grow. Since it was established, it has donated over £1.4 billion, of which over half has been given away in the past 10 years alone. In the most recent financial year, the Foundation gave away nearly £90 million to over 1,980 charities across the UK.

The Ross Foundation

The Ross Foundation was created in 2007 with a core mission to help children and young people discover their strengths by offering them a wide range of world-class educational opportunities. We support organisations that inspire young people and encourage them to take the chance to embrace new skills and passion.