

Understanding British Portraits

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PORTRAITS IN OXFORD

4 February 2010 | 10.00 – 16.50

Commencing at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Programme

- 10.00–11.00 **Registration and coffee/tea** in Gallery 60 on the third floor of the Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford.
- 11.00–12.15 **The Ashmolean Museum**
Jon Whiteley, Curator of Northern European Art, will introduce the portraits at the core of the museum's collection, those originally owned by its founder Elias Ashmole (1617-1692). Colin Harrison, Curator of British paintings, drawings and prints, will show a selection of British portrait drawings ranging from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries, including those by the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.
- 12.30–13.15 **The Bodleian Library**
Staff at the Bodleian Library will introduce the portraits in the Radcliffe Camera reading rooms, particularly those of its patron Dr John Radcliffe (1650–1714), architect James Gibbs (1682–1754), and builder Francis Smith (1672–1738). In small groups we will then visit the famous frieze of 1618/19 in the Upper Reading Room of the Old Library, comprising the bust-length portraits of 202 celebrated intellectual figures. Delegates will also be invited to examine the portrait of the courier Sir Thomas Overbury (1581-1613), which has figured in the recently-revived debate surrounding likenesses of William Shakespeare.
- 13.30–14.30 **Lunch** in New College
- 14.30–15.15 **New College**
Dr. Michael Burden, Dean and Pictures & Chattels Fellow at New College, will bring the group into the private rooms which comprise the Senior Common Room. These rooms house portraits relating to the history of New College, from miniatures by Isaac Oliver (c.1565-1617) and Thomas Flatman (1635-1688), portraits by George Romney and Thomas Hill, caricatures by Sir Edwin Landseer, Linley Sambourne, Max Beerbohm and 'Marc' (Mark Boxer) to contemporary portraits by James Lloyd, Richard Hamilton, and Jennifer Anderson.
- 15.30–16.30 **The Examination Schools**
Dr. Annette Peach, editor of the online catalogue *Portraits in Oxford*, will lead this tour of the Examination Schools, built in 1882 to the designs of Sir Thomas Graham Jackson. The Schools' portrait collection includes some of the University's 'state' portraits, for example those of British and European monarchs, University Chancellors and Burgesses (MPs for the University), as well as those of individuals commemorated for their contribution to University life. Amongst the collection are *Sir Hans Sloane* by Jonathan Richardson the elder (1730), and *Lord Carlingford* by James Tissot (1871).
- 16.30–16.50 **Coffee/tea** in the Examination Schools

Places on this workshop are strictly limited to 25, so please book early.