

Georgian Faces seminar

Thursday 3 February 2011 | 11.00-15.50

Dorset County Museum, Dorchester

Programme

- 11.00-11.30 Coffee, registration, and a chance to view the exhibition *Georgian Faces: Portrait of a County*
- 11.30-11.40 Welcome and introduction from chairperson **Dr Jon Murden**, Director of Dorset County Museum
- 11.40-12.30 **Gwen Yarker**, curator of the *Georgian Faces* exhibition
Making Georgian Faces: from concept to curation
- 12.30-12.55 **Richard Stephens**, post-doctoral research assistant on the AHRC-funded project *Court, Country, City: British Art 1660-1735*, Tate/University of York
'The worst of Spring in London is that the whole County of Devonshire come up to town': Sir Joshua Reynolds and his West Country clients.
Using Reynolds as an example, this presentation will describe how eighteenth-century provincial artists exploited connections among regional landowners to establish themselves in the crowded metropolitan art world. This was a symbiotic relationship, however. While painters gained lucrative contacts among the political elite, members of the provincial gentry gained, in exchange, an elusive cultural prestige through their association with a successful London artist that could benefit them both during their months in London and in their home county.
- 12.55-14.00 **Lunch** provided for all delegates
- 14.00-14.25 **Penelope Byrde**, independent scholar and former Curator of the Museum of Costume, Bath
'Taste, fitness and manner': dress in Georgian portraits
A look at some of the clothes, hair styles and deportment depicted in the *Georgian Faces* exhibition portraits, what they represent and ways in which they may be dated and deciphered.
- 14.25-14.50 **Pippa Brindley**, Learning Manager, Dorset County Museum
The Boy in Red (Thomas Rackett the Younger by George Romney, c.1768)
Dorset County Museum's innovative learning project *The Boy in Red* engaged adults with learning disabilities with two aims: contributing to the raising of their self confidence and increasing their sense of belonging to and being active contributors of their local community. The participants, known as 'Museum Makers' took part in weekly sessions involving activities such as painting, printing, photography, papier mâché, textiles, talks, walks and visits which culminated in an exhibition of their artworks. This exhibition reflects their enjoyment and pride in their work, the evaluation report indicating that many more outcomes were evident than the original aims of developing self confidence and contribution.
- 14.50-15.15 **Susan Sloman**, independent art historian and writer
Portraiture and Tourism: some suggestions for research
An examination of the links between portraiture and the annual migration of 'society' to West Country spa and sea bathing resorts. It will suggest ways in which newspapers, directories and other locally-published sources can be used to discover which artists made regular visits to the provinces, how they operated and who their clients were.
- 15.15-15.40 **Ann Smith**, Archivist, Sherborne Castle, Dorset
Portraits of Six Digby Brothers from Sherborne Castle
Drawing on the Digby family's private archive, this presentation will explore the lives and characters of those family members whose portraits are on loan to the exhibition.
- 15.40 – 15.50 Chairperson's close

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*confirmation of your place at the seminar will be sent by email. We will also be including email addresses on the delegate list for all seminar attendees.