

# DATS

DRESS AND TEXTILE  
SPECIALISTS

Understanding  
British Portraits

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## Portraits and Textiles Seminar

Tuesday 17 January 2012, 10.30—16.20

Town Close Auditorium, Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

### Biographies of speakers and chairperson

**Felicite Gillham** was educated at Croydon High School, Central St Martins and the Sorbonne, Paris. She joined the RSC in 1964 working in many departments, and took over the Stratford and London wig departments the following year. From 1970 she had a London business, where she originated appearances in many well known shows, including CATS, Sleuth and many of Harold Pinter's plays. For 16 years she has worked closely with Sir Alan Ayckbourn designing appearances for characters in his new plays. Felicite has travelled widely working with wigs, including Russia, Finland, USA, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Felicite has a sincere interest in the historical accuracy of wigs and hairstyles.

**Joanna Hashagen** studied History of Art, followed by a post graduate course in Museum & Art Gallery Studies, both at The University of Manchester. She was Assistant Keeper at The Gallery of Costume in Manchester for four years before becoming Keeper of Textiles at The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle. She has curated numerous exhibitions based on these important textile and dress collections. Many of them have been accompanied by published catalogues including *Royal Style* (1992), *People and Patterns* (1996), *North Country Quilts* (2000), *Wedding Belles* (2003), and *Fine & Fashionable – Lace from The Blackborne Collection*, with Santina Levey (2006). From 2007 to 2010 she led a £800,000 project for a new permanent Fashion & Textile Gallery, which received a Museums Heritage Award, 'Highly Commended' for best permanent exhibition, 2011.

**Karen Hearn** is the Curator of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century British Art at Tate Britain. She curated the Tate exhibition *Dynasties: Painting in Tudor and Jacobean England 1530-1630* in 1995, receiving a European Women of Achievement award. Her Tate Britain show *Marcus Gheeraerts II: Elizabethan Artist* (2002) established the theme of the 'pregnancy portrait', and she subsequently curated *Nathaniel Bacon: Artist, Gentleman and Gardener* (2005, Tate Britain); and contributed to *Royalist Refugees 1648-1660* (2006, Rubenshuis, Antwerp). Her publications include 'The English Career of Cornelius Johnson', in J Roding *et al* (eds), *Dutch and Flemish Artists in Britain 1550-1700* (Leiden, 2003) and the book *Nicholas Hilliard* (London, 2005). Karen co-edited *Lady Anne Clifford: Culture, Patronage and Gender in 17<sup>th</sup> Century Britain*, Leeds, 2009, and was the curator of the recent Tate Britain exhibition *Van Dyck and Britain* (2009); her current small show there, *Rubens and Britain* runs until 6 May 2012.

**Jenny Lister** has worked as a curator of fashion and textiles at the V&A since 2004. She curated the exhibitions *60s Fashion* (2006) and *Grace Kelly: Style Icon* (2010) and contributed to other exhibitions and displays including *Quilts: Hidden Histories, Untold Stories* (2010). She is currently co-curating and coordinating the installation of the new displays of the permanent fashion collection. She previously worked at the Museum of London and the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection, Kensington Palace, and has played an active role in the development of *DATS* (Dress and Textiles Specialists).

**Marcia Pointon** was Professor of History of Art at the University of Sussex and, from 1992, Pilkington Professor of History of Art at Manchester University. She is now Professor Emeritus in History of Art at the University of Manchester and Hon. Research Fellow at the Courtauld Institute of Art and works as an independent scholar and research consultant. She has held Fellowships at the Getty Research Institute, the Yale Center for British Art, the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and the National Portrait Gallery, London, where she was Leverhulme Research Fellow in 2008. She is author of many books including *Hanging the Head: Portraiture and Social Formation in Eighteenth-century England* (Yale University Press 1993) and *Strategies for Showing: Women, Possession and Representation in English Visual Culture 1665-1800* (Oxford University Press 1997). Her most recent book, *Brilliant Effects: A Cultural History of Gem Stones and Jewellery* (Yale University Press, 2009) won the Historians of British Art Book Prize in 2011. Her new book, *Portrayal: History, identity, Materiality* will be published by Reaktion Books in 2012.

**Aileen Ribeiro** was Head of the History of Dress Section at the Courtauld Institute from 1975 to 2009, and is now Professor Emeritus. She lectures widely in Great Britain, Europe and North America, and has acted as costume consultant/contributor to many major exhibitions, her most recent contribution being an essay on Gainsborough's portrait of Ann Ford (Cincinnati Art Museum, 2010). She is the author of a number of books, including *The Gallery of Fashion* (National Portrait Gallery, 2000); the most recent is *Facing Beauty. Painted Women and Cosmetic Art* (Yale University Press, 2011). She is currently working on a book about the relationships between art and fashion.

**Emma Slocombe** is a National Trust curator based in Kent and East Sussex. Her property portfolio includes Knole, Sissinghurst, Smallhythe Place and Scotney Castle. She has a specialist interest in costume and textiles and is a member of the National Trust costume working group. Recent projects include 'Dress in the Limelight', a reinterpretation of Ellen Terry's beetle-wing dress at Smallhythe Place and the conservation of the James II Bed at Knole. Last year she published 'Lady Macbeth at the Lyceum' (National Trust Historic Houses and Collections Annual in association with Apollo, 2011) and 'John Piper at Scotney Castle' (John Piper in Kent and East Sussex, ed. Nathaniel Hepburn, 2011).

**Francesca Vanke** is Acting Keeper of Art and Curator of Decorative Art at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery. She curates ceramics, glass, silver and jewellery from 16th century to present day. While at Norwich she has curated two new decorative arts galleries, and co-curated the *Art of Faith* and *Art at the Rockface* exhibitions. Previously she was a freelance curator and lecturer. She was a guest curator on the *Art Nouveau* and *Inventing New Britain: the Victorian Vision* exhibitions at the Victoria and Albert Museum. She specialises in the reception of Oriental arts in Europe and in Orientalism in British decorative arts. She gained her BA in Classics from Oxford, and her PhD in history from Camberwell College of Art, where she was subsequently a post-doctoral research fellow.