

# Understanding British Portraits

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## Annual seminar

Tuesday 19 October 2010 | 10.00-16.55

National Portrait Gallery

### Biographies of speakers and chairpersons

**Dr Andrew Moore** is Keeper of Art and Senior Curator for Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service. He has curated or co-curated a number of exhibitions examining the cultural identity of Norfolk and East Anglia. These include regional assessments of the impact of the European Grand Tour (1985), the influence of Dutch and Flemish painting (1988) and of Portraiture (1992). In partnership with the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg he has published a reassessment of the collection of Sir Robert Walpole: *A Capital Collection* (Yale University Press, 2002 in association with the Paul Mellon Centre of Studies in British Art). His most recent co-curated exhibition *The Art of Faith* is currently on show at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery until 23 January 2011.

**Andrew Ellis** read Economics at Cambridge before joining the merchant bank Robert Fleming, enticed by its fine collection of Scottish art. He stayed with Robert Fleming for almost twenty years working in London, Tokyo and other parts of Asia in a variety of equity research and management roles. Swapping visits to Japanese chemical plants for visits to UK museum storerooms, he joined the Public Catalogue Foundation as Director ahead of its launch in 2003.

**Nick Cohen** is the BBC's multiplatform commissioner for factual and arts, a role that encompasses finding, developing and commissioning innovative interactive and cross-platform projects, as well as overseeing a portfolio of major ongoing websites, such as BBC Food and BBC Arts. Nick has been working at the forefront of digital media for over a decade and his commissions and productions have won a number of industry awards, including two Emmys. Prior to his current role he was Commissioning Editor for the BBC's ground breaking interactive TV service, Assistant Editor at BBC News Interactive (where he oversaw audio video product development) and Director, Broadband & Interactive TV Development for Turner Broadcasting Europe (where he developed new media services for CNN and Cartoon Network). He began his career in the late 90s as an online journalist and web designer.

**Emma Heslewood** has worked in museums since 1997 and at the Harris Museum and Art Gallery since 2000. Her role is to engage visitors with Preston's history and the history collections, which include social history, archaeology and photography. She has a degree in history from the University of Newcastle and a Masters degree in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester. Her past work includes *Robert Pateson – A Scientific Philosopher*, published in 2004. She is currently working on a new Preston history gallery and researching the life and work of film maker Will Onda.

**Renée Mussai** has been involved with Autograph ABP since 2001, where she currently oversees the establishment of the new Archive and Research Centre for Culturally Diverse Photography at Rivington Place, London, launching to the public in spring 2011. In addition to curating the archive collection, she is guest curator and fellow at the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute at Harvard University, and recently co-curated for Autograph ABP two retrospective exhibitions *James Barnor: Ever Young* and *W.E.B. Du Bois: The Paris Albums 1900*, at Rivington Place (17 September - 27 November 2010). Twice recipient of the Sofie and Emanuel Fohn Fellowship, she holds under- and post-graduate degrees in Photography from the University of the Arts London, and previously studied history of art at the University of Vienna, Austria. She is based in London, and regularly lectures on photographic history and cultural identity.

**Professor Ann Sumner** was educated at the Courtauld Institute, University of London, and undertook her PhD at Newnham College, Cambridge. She began her career at the National

Portrait Gallery, London and has held curatorial positions at the Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Dulwich Picture Gallery, Harewood House Trust, the Holburne Museum, University of Bath and the National Museum Wales where she was Head of Fine Art for eight years until her appointment to the Barber. Her particular interests include seventeenth-century Dutch and Flemish art, British portraiture and miniatures and French Impressionist painting. Professor Sumner is a member of the Specialist Subject Network for European Paintings Steering Committee at the National Gallery, London, a Trustee of the Methodist Art Collection of Modern Art, a member of the advisory panel for the Leverhulme Trust 2010 and a member of the Academic and Curatorial Advisory Panel for the Ironbridge Trust.

**Brett Dolman** is Curator (Collections) at Historic Royal Palaces, responsible primarily for the paintings and tapestries at Hampton Court. Brett started out as an historian, via an MA in Art History, and worked as a Manuscripts curator at the British Library for 7 years, working principally with the topographical and drawing collections there, whilst managing the Manuscripts Reading Room. He has been at Historic Royal Palaces for 7 years, and has curated exhibitions on the court of James I, Imprisonment at the Tower, the Gunpowder Plot and Henry VIII, but has a special research interest in Tudor and Stuart court portraiture. He is currently preparing an exhibition about Beauty in 2012.

**Susan Mason** has a degree in Ancient History and Archaeology from Manchester University and has worked as a researcher and cataloguer in the Archaeology Department at the Manchester Museum; as a book conservator at Powis Castle; and writing and illustrating educational materials for Cardiff Castle. She was conservator/registrars at the South Wales Borderers Museum, Brecon (the Regiment's most famous engagement was immortalised by the film *Zulu*). She worked for several years as a lecturer in FE colleges, teaching A Level Classical Civilisation and History of Art. She was also a Classical Civilisation A level examiner for OCR. She is currently working as the Wales Regional Learning and Interpretation Officer for the National Trust. This involves working with and advising colleagues at properties throughout the region as well as initiating and leading projects, such as the recent youth opera at Plas Newydd.

**Dr. Jon Whiteley** has been on the staff of the Ashmolean since 1977. He has written catalogues of the collections of French drawings, including a study of the 16th-century French portrait copies in the museum, and handbooks of the collections of Pre-Raphaelites, French drawings and musical instruments. He has worked on the collection of Chantrey portrait busts and is at present working on a catalogue of the later French paintings.

**Louise Coysh** curates projects that maximise the potential for collaborations between artists, London Underground staff and communities reflecting the diversity of London. Projects include *Linear: 60 portraits of Jubilee line staff* by Dryden Goodwin; *Threads* by Nadia Bettega with young people from Brent Youth Inclusion Programme, and *Central line stories* by Sarah Butler, writer-in-residence. With over twelve years experience within the visual arts sector, Louise has a successful track record of working with stakeholders in the education, public and voluntary sectors. At the Serpentine Gallery (2004 – 2007), Louise organised artists' residences, projects, events and publications, including *Dis-assembly* (2003-6) with Faisal Abdu'Allah, Christian Boltanski, Yona Freidman and Runa Islam, with North Westminster Community School. She was Magazine Coordinator for *AN Magazine* (1998 – 2001) and on the Visual Arts North East (VANE) steering committee in (1999-2000). Louise has a BA Fine Art: Painting and an MA Curating Contemporary Art, Royal College of Art.

Central to **Dryden Goodwin's** practice is a fascination with drawing, often in combination with photography, film and large-scale, screen-based installations with soundtracks, concerned with the interaction between people and qualities of time and space. Recent projects include *Linear* for Art on the Underground (London, 2010) and a commission for the *Who am I?* gallery at the Science Museum (London, 2010). Recent solo exhibitions include *Cast*, Hasselblad Foundation, Gothenburg, Sweden 2009 and *The Photographers' Gallery*, London, 2008; *Flight*, Chisenhale Gallery, London, 2006, and *Sustained Endeavour: Portrait of Sir Steve Redgrave*, National Portrait Gallery, London, 2006. Recent group exhibitions include *Grand National*, Kunstlaboratorium, Vestfossen, Norway 2010; *London Calling-Who Gets to Run the World*, Hanjiyun Contemporary Space, Beijing, China, 2009 and *Total Museum*, Seoul, South Korea, 2009; *Global Cities*, Tate Modern, 2007. Works in public collections include The Museum of Modern Art in New York, Tate and the National Portrait Gallery, London. Dryden teaches at the Slade School of Fine Art, London.