

## **A selection of portrait collections in Bath**

**Tuesday 22 July 2014, 10.00 — 17.00**

### **Programme**

10.00—10.20 Registration and refreshments at the **Holburne Museum**

10.20—10.30 **Welcome to the Holburne Museum collection from Amina Wright, Senior Curator**

10.30-11.10 **Tour of the Holburne portrait collection with Amina Wright**

During the past 100 years the Holburne Museum has built up an outstanding collection of British eighteenth-century portraits including paintings by Allan Ramsay, Angelica Kauffman, George Stubbs, William Hoare and Thomas Barker of Bath and an exceptional group of Bath-period Gainsboroughs. There are also early (Bath-period) drawings by Thomas Lawrence and a fine collection of portrait miniatures. Thanks to the recent transfer of the Somerset Maugham Collection of Theatrical Portraits to the Holburne from the National Theatre, the museum now has more portraits by Johann Zoffany on public display than any other in Britain.

11.10—11.40 **Time for delegates to visit the exhibition *Julian Opie: Collected Works* and the Holburne's permanent collection**

*Julian Opie: Collected Works* is his first one-man exhibition in a public museum in the UK for over ten years. It brings together a selection of his work in a wide variety of media and his own art collection, including seventeenth- and eighteenth-century portraits and miniatures, and Egyptian and Roman sculpture. The exhibition explores the relationship between Opie's enthusiasms as a collector of historic art with his own completely contemporary vision.

12.00—12.30 **View the portrait collection at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases with Kate Lane, Fundraising & Communications Officer**

Founded in 1738 as the Bath General Infirmary, this was the city's first hospital and was designed to treat chronic illness among the many who travelled to Bath for medical respite. Richard 'Beau' Nash, entrepreneur Ralph Allen, Lord Palmerston, General Wade and other prominent figures in the city's history were instrumental in its foundation. Patients were treated for a variety of rheumatic and skin diseases, and the therapeutic properties of Bath's hot mineral waters were used to enhance this rehabilitation treatment. The hospital's small but important collection of portraits includes William Hoare's celebrated group portrait of physician Dr Oliver and surgeon Jeremiah Pierce examining patients (1761). Hoare gifted a number of other oil and pastel portraits to the hospital, mainly featuring its key founders and medical staff. The collection includes works by Thomas Hudson, Benjamin Morris, Thomas Barker, as well as a small number of portrait miniatures.

o o o o o o

12.45—14.00 **Lunch at the Roman Baths Kitchen** provided for all delegates

o o o o o o

14.15—15.00 **Tour of the portrait collection at the Guildhall with Dr Michael Rowe**

The portraits hanging in Bath's magnificent Guildhall portray key local and national figures. Many were commissioned specifically to act as memorials to those who made Bath one of the most celebrated cities in Georgian England. Beginning with Van Diest's portraits of Bath's councillors in 1727, the collection is rich in 18th century works, although comes all the way up to the present day with a portrait of World War One veteran Harry Patch. The Banqueting Room, in which full length portraits are illuminated by some of the best 18th century chandeliers in Britain, offers one of the most imposing displays of civic portraiture in Britain.

15.15—16.15 **Tour of the *Georgians* exhibition at the Fashion Museum with Rosemary Harden, Museum Manager**

*Georgians* celebrates the Fashion's Museum's situation in the Georgian Assembly Rooms, the focal point of polite social gatherings in the famous spa resort since they opened in 1771. The exhibition presents a selection of the finest fashions worn by those attending Assemblies, and other glittering occasions of elite eighteenth century social life. It includes over thirty original outfits and ensembles from the museum's world-class collection, including gowns made of colourful and richly-patterned woven silks, as well as embroidered coats and waistcoats worn by Georgian gentlemen of fashion. Also included are recent creations by top couturiers who are inspired by Georgian fashion and aesthetics in their modern creations. Rosemary Harden will give delegates an insight into the exhibition's curatorial and conservation challenges, the preparatory research involved, and the audience learning opportunities offered by the display.

16.15—17.00 **Afternoon tea and discussion with Rosemary Harden at the Fashion Museum café**

17.00 Close



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**