

## Engaging Young People aged 14—21 with Portraits Tuesday 21 January 2020, 10.15 — 16.30 Leeds Art Gallery, LS1 3AA

Chaired by Kate Fellows, Head of Learning and Access at Leeds Museums and Galleries

Conference programmed by Sarah Shaw, Museum Tales Ltd, in collaboration with Engage and the Understanding British Portraits network

### Programme

10.15—10.45 **Registration and refreshments.**

10.45—11.00 **Welcome** from conference chairperson, Kate Fellows, Head of Learning and Access, Leeds Museums and Galleries

11.00 —11.30 **Portrait Identities. Exploring the politics of working with a permanent collection, Amanda Phillips, Learning and Access Officer Leeds Art Gallery**

Leeds Art Gallery has within its Core Programme a schools workshop 'Picturing People', where conversation on what makes a picture of a person 'a portrait' leads to collective making using paper bags and oil pastels. This short presentation will share the thinking behind this workshop, and some of the interesting issues that have arisen in engaging young people with a permanent collection initiated in the 19th century but growing in the main through the acquisition of contemporary art.

11.30—12.00 **Positive Portraiture in our Image Obsessed Age, Kay Rufai, Self-Esteem Team**

Being exposed to portraiture provides a crucial solution to our image-obsessed world, showcasing not just filter-free faces, but seeing beyond the image to connect with personalities, expressions and the nuances of a person. Portraiture is a brilliant tool to teach identity, individuality and respect, and how to engage young people effectively in order to receive these benefits.

12.00—13.00 **Lunch and networking**

13.00—14.00 **Young People talks**

During these sessions delegates will hear first hand accounts from staff and participants of the engagement between young people and portraiture at their venues. Speakers will cover a variety of approaches from youth forums to project focused programming.

- ◆ **Sarah Yates, Creative Learning Producer for York Art Gallery and intern Olivia King.** York Art Gallery is working with a young fine art student to respond creatively and practically to the exhibition, *Making a Masterpiece: Bouts and Beyond*. Using the exhibition as an inspirational starting point, the student intern has been producing participatory artwork which explores how artists made and make images from 1450 to the present. Outcomes are taking a variety of visual forms, engaging the public with new artwork and giving the student the opportunity to explore new ideas.
- ◆ **Juno Rae, Families & Young People's Programme Manager, National Portrait Gallery, London.** Juno will discuss working with the National Portrait Gallery's Youth Forum, an advisory group of young people aged 14-21 interested in portraiture, representation and identity. For over 10 years, the Youth Forum has acted as a youth advisory group, contributing ideas to exhibitions, marketing and programmes. The collaborative approach of the Forum will be shared including creating successful portrait-focussed youth-led interpretation and social media strategies.

continued over



- ◆ **Keisha Thompson, Young People's Producer at the Contact theatre, Manchester, and Sumnima Limbu from Contact Young Company** will talk about their engagement with Manchester Art Gallery. The work undertaken during this partnership encouraged young people to discuss how art is displayed and contextualised within public spaces, along with other topics such as decolonisation. Outputs included the use of portraiture to create powerful poetry and monologues.

14.00—14.30 **Refreshments**

14.30—15.30 **Breakout sessions**

Delegates are invited to attend two thirty-minute sessions on offer (choose your sessions at time of booking):

- **'It's not for me'. Helen Whiteoak, Head of Programmes and Engagement, National Portrait Gallery, London**  
How do we alter perceptions and break down barriers to youth engagement? What capacity do we have to open our doors to different forms of creativity and innovation? Helen explores co-curated youth private views that see 300 young people aged 14-21 enjoying the Gallery after hours. The audience is diverse and new. They love the Gallery's space, the creative offer, the welcome. Their perception that the Gallery was not for them was turned inside out. What's needed is a way of breaking down that initial barrier.
- **Laing Art Gallery, Anne Fountain, Learning Officer, and Zoe Allen, Arts Participation Officer.** L-ink forum, the Laing's young people's group, is for anyone aged between 15 and 21 who loves art or who wants to pursue a career in art. The group meets regularly to organise events and exhibitions, work with artists, and to make and talk about art.
- **National Galleries Scotland, Robin Baillie, Senior Outreach Officer.** *Beings* was an interactive exhibition in 2019 which addressed well-being, in which young people explore their feelings by creating new art in direct response to particular works of art from the Scottish National Portrait Gallery collection. The aim was to create a visual environment where all responses are valued, including those of the visitors. *Beings* was a National Galleries of Scotland Learning project and exhibition co-produced by young people.

15.30—16.00 **Stephanie Ampofo, keynote address**

Stephanie Ampofo, dynamic spoken word artist and activist, will speak about her own powerful experiences of supporting young people as they develop their self confidence, discover their identity and explore the power of the Arts. Stephanie's keynote will culminate in a poem specifically written for today's event.

16.00—16.30 **Q&A session chaired by Kate Fellows**

16.30 **Thanks and close**

---

Laura Evans of **Nifty Fox Creative** will be capturing the day through live scribed digital images. These will be shared on social media throughout the day.

The **Studio12** team from Leeds will be creating a short film during the conference. Studio12 strives to provide young people with a creative process to educate, engage and include young people in producing new work. It provides free access to a production studio, training, accredited qualifications and an industry panel of creative professionals. Studio12 Director Jamie Hutchison will be working with young people to record highlights of the day.



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**