

## Press Release

Wednesday 12 January 2011

### **THE QUEEN: ART AND IMAGE**

**A touring exhibition organised by the National Portrait Gallery, London**

**National Gallery Complex, Edinburgh** 25 June ó 18 Sept 2011

**Ulster Museum, Belfast** 14 October 2011 ó 15 Jan 2012

**National Museum Cardiff** 4 February ó 29 April 2012

**National Portrait Gallery, London** 17 May ó 21 Oct 2012

*London presentation sponsored by KPMG*

*Edinburgh presentation sponsored by Turcan Connell*

To mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, the National Portrait Gallery will stage an innovative touring exhibition bringing together 60 of the most remarkable and resonant images of Elizabeth II spanning the 60 years of her reign and some on public display for the first time. *The Queen: Art and Image* will tour to British venues before being shown in London, opening in Edinburgh in June, Belfast in October and Cardiff and London in 2012.

From Beaton and Leibovitz to Annigoni and Warhol, *The Queen: Art and Image* will be the most wide-ranging exhibition of images in different media devoted to a single royal sitter. Formal painted portraits, official photographs, media pictures, and powerful responses by contemporary artists will be shown in an exhibition which explores both traditional representations and works which extend the visual language of royal portraiture.

Documenting the changing nature of representations of the Monarch, the exhibition will show how images serve as a lens through which to view shifting perceptions of royalty. This perspective reflects changes in the social scene and historical context and the exhibition highlights important developments and events: from The Queen's relationship with the press and the miner's strike, to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the advent of new technology. This textured view of the period is supplemented by archival material ó from newspapers to film footage, from postage stamps to consumer ephemera.

Among the highlights from the works from life are Annigoni's hugely popular life-size 1969 commission for the National Portrait Gallery, Lucian Freud's 2000-01 portrait from the Royal Collection and Justin Mortimer's painting where The Queen's head floats away from her body against a huge background of flat vibrant yellow. Among the exhibited photographers for whom The Queen sat are Annie Leibovitz, Dorothy Wilding and Cecil Beaton - including his iconic Westminster Abbey Coronation image - and Chris Levine's highly unusual photograph from a 2004 sitting of The Queen with her eyes closed.

*The Queen: Art and Image* will show a significant selection of unofficial portraits of the British monarch from major 20<sup>th</sup> century artists including those of Gilbert and George, Andy Warhol and Gerhard Richter as well as less formal portraits by such photographers as Eve Arnold, Patrick Lichfield and Lord Snowdon.

Collectively, the exhibition celebrates and explores the startling range of artistic creativity and media-derived imagery that The Queen has inspired. It also probes the relation of this imagery to a world of changing values during a reign that has engaged the attention of millions.

Sandy Nairne, Director of the National Portrait Gallery, London, says: 'The Queen is the most portrayed person in British history, reflecting her long reign and also the respect and affection which is felt towards her. The Diamond

Jubilee is a wonderful celebration and the National Portrait Gallery is very pleased to be sharing this exhibition with our other national partners in Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff.

James Holloway, Director of Scottish National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh, says: "I am delighted that Scotland will be able to enjoy this remarkable jubilee exhibition, which will be presented in the heart of the capital city of Her Majesty's Stewart ancestors."

Jim McGreevy, Director of Collections & Interpretation, National Museums Northern Ireland, said: "We are pleased to participate in this UK wide tour of *The Queen: Art and Image*. This novel exhibition offers our visitors an opportunity to see the work of world-renowned artists and photographers such as Andy Warhol, Gerhard Richter, Annie Leibovitz and Lord Snowden for the first time at the Ulster Museum. Across six decades the works on display chart the changing portrayal of a Monarch whose image has, of course, had such global and local significance."

David Anderson, Director General of Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales, says: "Amgueddfa Cymru is pleased to be working in collaboration with the UK's other national museums. This is an example of how effective partnerships between museums and galleries can make works by such influential artists such as Andy Warhol and Gerhard Richter, accessible to visitors across the country."

John Griffith-Jones, Senior Partner and Chairman of KPMG in the UK, says: "KPMG is pleased to support what will be a fascinating visual chronology of The Queen's reign. With such a wide range of imagery and artistic styles, I am sure the exhibition will be of huge interest to many people, and will form a significant part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations."

Douglas Connell, Joint Senior Partner of Turcan Connell, says: "As we move towards this historic anniversary of Her Majesty's accession, Turcan Connell is delighted that this wonderful exhibition opens at the National Galleries of Scotland and that we in Scotland will have the first chance to view this very special range of images."

The exhibition is curated by Paul Moorhouse, the National Portrait Gallery's 20<sup>th</sup> Century Curator. At the National Portrait Gallery he has curated the major retrospectives: *Gerhard Richter Portraits* and *Pop Art Portraits*. As part of the Gallery's on-going *Interventions* series of displays he has curated *John Gibbons: Portraits*, *Frank Auerbach: Four Portraits of Catherine Lampert*, *Andy Warhol: 10 Portraits of Jews of the 20th Century* and *Anthony Caro: Portraits*.

### ***THE QUEEN: ART AND IMAGE – THE TOUR***

**National Gallery Complex, Edinburgh** 25 June–18 Sept 2011

*Sponsored by Turcan Connell*

Admission £7 Concs £5 + Tickets available online from 1 June 2011 at [www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)

**Ulster Museum, Belfast** 14 October 2011–15 Jan 2012

Admission Free [www.nmni.com](http://www.nmni.com)

**National Museum Cardiff** 4 February – 29 April 2012

Admission Free

More information at [www.museumwales.ac.uk](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk)

**National Portrait Gallery, London** 17 May – 21 Oct 2012

*Sponsored by KPMG*

Admission Charge to be confirmed

For more information please go to [www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

*Spring Season 2012, sponsored by Herbert Smith LLP*

### **PUBLICATION**

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue, with essays by historian and writer Sir David Cannadine and curator Paul Moorhouse and featuring over 60 portraits. Published by the National Portrait Gallery, London, priced £30 (hardback). Available June 2011.

### **CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

A programme of events including lectures, tours and lunchtime talks will accompany this landmark exhibition at all venues.

**For further press information, please contact:** Neil Evans, Senior Press Officer, National Portrait Gallery: Tel. 020 7312 2452 (not for publication) / Email [nevans@npg.org.uk](mailto:nevans@npg.org.uk)

**To download press releases and images, please go to:** [www.npg.org.uk/press](http://www.npg.org.uk/press)

**National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place WC2H 0HE, opening hours** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday: 10am ó 6pm (Gallery closure commences at 5.50pm) **Late Opening:** Thursday, Friday: 10am ó 9pm (Gallery closure commences at 8.50pm) **Nearest Underground:** Leicester Square/Charing Cross **General information:** 0207 306 0055 **Recorded information:** 020 7312 2463 **Website/Tickets:** [www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

##### **National Museums Northern Ireland**

National Museums Northern Ireland comprises Northern Ireland's premier cultural, learning and visitor attractions, including the Ulster Museum, Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, Ulster American Folk Park and Armagh County Museum. The award-winning museums have achieved international recognition and UK acclaim for their outstanding visitor offering, education programme and care for collections. The Ulster Museum ó Northern Ireland's principal museum ó has become one of Northern Ireland's most popular tourist attractions since reopening in 2009 following a multi-million pound rejuvenation. As well as a phenomenal visitor response to the new-look museum, the quality of the Ulster Museum was further recognised in 2010 when it was awarded the UK Art Fund prize - one of the most prestigious museums prizes in the world.

##### **Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales**

Amgueddfa Cymru ó National Museum Wales operates seven museums across Wales National Museum Cardiff, St Fagans: National History Museum, National Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon, Big Pit: National Coal Museum, Blaenafon, National Wool Museum, Dre-fach Felindre, National Slate Museum, Llanberis and the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea. For more information, please visit [www.museumwales.ac.uk](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk)

##### **KPMG**

KPMG LLP, a UK limited liability partnership, is a subsidiary of KPMG Europe LLP and operates from 22 offices across the UK with nearly 11,000 partners and staff. The UK firm recorded a turnover of £1.6 billion in the year ended September 2010. KPMG is a global network of professional firms providing Audit, Tax, and Advisory services. We operate in 150 countries and have more than 138,000 professionals working in member firms around the world. The independent member firms of the KPMG network are affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. KPMG International provides no client services.

##### **Turcan Connell**

Turcan Connell was founded on the belief that the needs of private clients, charities and the owners and managers of land are most effectively served by a firm which focuses exclusively on everything that matters to these clients. Today, 18 partners and a team of nearly 300 serve our clients from offices in Edinburgh, London and Guernsey. Our legal services include trust and tax, land and property, family law, employment law and charity law. We also offer a comprehensive range of tax and financial planning advice and investment management services. To learn more visit us at [www.turcanconnell.com](http://www.turcanconnell.com)