

Press Release

SCOTTISH
NATIONAL
GALLERY

Press view: 23 June 2011, 11.30am -1pm
Scottish National Gallery, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL



Chris Levine, *Lightness of Being*, 2007 © Chris Levine
Courtesy of Mr Kevin P. Burke and the Burke Children. Private Collection

THE QUEEN: ART AND IMAGE

Exhibition organised by the National Portrait Gallery, London in collaboration with the National Galleries of Scotland, Ulster Museum, Northern Ireland and National Museum of Wales.

Scottish National Gallery, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL
25 June–18 Sept 2011
Admission £7 (£5)

Edinburgh presentation sponsored by Turcan Connell

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To mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 a major exhibition will open in Edinburgh this summer. Organised by the National Portrait Gallery London in association with the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, this innovative exhibition will bring together some of the most remarkable and resonant images of Queen Elizabeth II from the 60 years of her reign, some of which will be on public display for the first time. Following its Edinburgh presentation *The Queen: Art and Image* will tour to Belfast and Cardiff, before coming to London 2012.

From Cecil Beaton and Annie Leibovitz to Pietro Annigoni and Andy 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 that extend the visual language of royal portraiture.

Documenting the changing nature of representations of the monarch, the exhibition will show how images of the Queen serve as a lens through which to view shifting perceptions of royalty. This perspective also reflects profound social changes and the exhibition highlights important developments and events: from The Queen's relationship with the press and the advent of new technology, to the miner's strike and the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Highlights among the many painted portraits will be Lucian Freud's 2000-01 controversial portrait from the Royal Collection and Justin Mortimer's painting in which The Queen's head appears to float 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 compelling photograph, from a 2004 sitting, which shows 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 20th century artists including, Gilbert and George, Andy Warhol and Gerhard Richter as well as less formal portraits by such photographers as Eve Arnold, Lord Snowdon and Patrick Lichfield. Lichfield's photographs include several relaxed images of The Queen on the Royal Yacht Britannia a location familiar to many visitors and residents of Edinburgh. The exhibition will also contain many press images taken of The Queen from throughout her reign. Scottish images from this selection will include a striking photograph documenting an official visit to the Castlemilk council estate in 1999, a surprisingly informal scene that shows The Queen having tea with a local family.

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

The exhibition is curated by Paul Moorhouse, 20th Century Curator at the National Portrait Gallery, London

For further press information, please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

THE QUEEN: ART AND IMAGE – THE TOUR

Scottish National Gallery, 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

Ulster Museum, Belfast 14 October 2011–15 Jan 2012

Admission Free www.nmni.com

National Museum Cardiff 4 February – 29 April 2012

Admission Free

More information at 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

Spring Season 2012, sponsored by Herbert Smith LLP

PUBLICATION

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated book by the exhibition curator Paul Moorhouse with an accompanying essay by historian and writer Sir David Cannadine 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.

Turcan Connell

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