TUDORS
TO
WINDSORS

16 March – 14 July 2019

British Royal Portraits
Exhibition organised by
the National Portrait Gallery, London

Contextual Information
Timelines and Family Trees

Bendigo Art Gallery is proudly owned and operated by City of Greater Bendigo with additional support from Creative Victoria.
Tudors to Windsors: British Royal Portraits

16 March – 14 July 2019

Tudors to Windsors traces the history of the British monarchy through the outstanding collection of the National Portrait Gallery, London. This exhibition highlights major events in British (and world) history from the sixteenth century to the present, examining the ways in which royal portraits were impacted by both the personalities of individual monarchs and wider historical change. Presenting some of the most significant royal portraits, the exhibition will explore five royal dynasties: the Tudors, the Stuarts, the Georgians, the Victorians and the Windsors shedding light on key figures and important historical moments. This exhibition also offers insight into the development of British art including works by the most important artists to have worked in Britain, from Sir Peter Lely and Sir Godfrey Kneller to Cecil Beaton and Annie Leibovitz.
The Tudors

Introduction

Between 1485 and 1603, England was ruled by five Tudor monarchs. From King Henry VII who won the crown in battle, to King Henry VIII with his six wives and Elizabeth I, England’s ‘Virgin Queen’, the Tudors are some of the most familiar figures in British history. The Tudor period was an era of great change which saw the birth of the Protestant religion and the emergence of England as a major European power. By the death of Elizabeth I in 1603, the foundations of the British Empire had been laid in America and the age of Shakespeare had begun, sparking a dazzling literary renaissance.

The birth of the Tudor period coincided with the beginning of portrait painting in England. This saw the development of a distinct English style in the visual arts and English artists were leaders in the field of miniature painting. Portraiture offered new opportunities for royals to consolidate their power through visual imagery. The most successful of these images convey the splendour and authority of their subjects alongside a sense of deep psychological insight. Images of Tudor kings and queens served to cement their reputations, providing centuries of viewers with the impression of personal encounters with the majesty of monarchy.
The Tudors

FAMILY TREE
Introduction

The Tudor dynasty came to an end in 1603 with the death of Elizabeth I. The crown passed to her cousin, James Stuart. Already ruling as James VI of Scotland, he now became James I of England in addition to his Scottish title. James and his descendants, the Stuart dynasty, ruled Britain for over a century. A time of great upheaval, this period saw the execution of a king and Britain’s only period of republican rule, which began in 1649. The monarchy was restored in 1660, to much rejoicing. However, the ‘Glorious Revolution’ of 1688-9 placed new limits on royal power, a change that transformed the very nature of kingship.

The patronage of art during the Stuart period was dominated by the activities of King Charles I and a number of important courtiers, who brought leading continental artists, including Van Dyck and Rubens, to Britain. The works they produced, and the collections of old master paintings amassed during this time, had a lasting impact on art both in the court and beyond, throughout the rest of the century.
Introduction

In 1714, Britain faced a crisis when Queen Anne died without an heir. To guarantee Britain’s constitutional monarchy and the Protestant succession to the throne, Parliament invited George of Hanover, the great grandson of James I, to become king and this began the Hanoverian rule of Britain. Many in favour of the Catholic Stuarts, who had been ousted in 1688, agitated for their restoration and supported the Jacobite uprisings of 1715 and 1745.

The age of the Georgians is known for the birth of industrialisation, vast expansion of the British Empire and emerging consumerism. This was an era of artistic and architectural elegance, as well as biting caricatures which satirised monarchs and leading politicians.

In 1768 the Royal Academy of Arts was established with Sir Joshua Reynolds as its first President. By the second half of the eighteenth century, the domination of painting by foreign artists was a thing of the past and British artists such as Allan Ramsay, Thomas Gainsborough, George Romney and George Stubbs were in the ascendency.
The Georgians (1714-1837)

UK

1805
The British Navy defeat the French at Trafalgar

1807
Abolition of the Slave Trade Act bans the slave trade in the British colonies

1811
George III suffers a second bout of mental illness; Parliament passes the Regency Act, allowing the Prince of Wales to rule in his stead

1815
The British defeat Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo

1820
George III dies and is succeeded by King George IV

1830
George IV dies and is succeeded by King William IV

1833
Abolition of slavery across the British empire

1837
William IV dies: the end of the Hanoverian dynasty

WORLDWIDE

1808
US Congress outlaws the African slave trade

1822
The American Colonisation Society founds a colony in Africa for freed American slaves, later Liberia

1830
The Indian Removal Act is passed, leading to forced evacuations and the deaths of thousands of Native Americans, known as the Great Removal

1836
South Australia is settled by the British and Adelaide is established as its capital
The Victorians

Introduction

Queen Victoria was only eighteen years old when she ascended to the throne in 1837, following the death of her uncle William IV. Victoria’s sixty-three year reign was to be longer than that of any of her predecessors. Victoria, however, was a queen who reigned rather than ruled. By this stage the monarch did not wield significant political power but served as a figurehead for the nation.

The major developments in science, technology and philosophy that occurred during Victoria’s reign continue to shape the way we live today. These included the development of anaesthetics and germ theory, Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution and the discovery of radio waves. Under Queen Victoria, the British Empire became a global power, with colonial rule in Canada and Australia extending to India, Malaya and West Africa.

In royal portraiture, artists attempted to reconcile the contradictory realities of the queen’s public power with traditional womanly virtues. Developments in print technology fuelled public demand for images of the royal family. The commercial availability of photography from the 1860s revolutionised the practice of portraiture. Victoria and Albert embraced the medium. Photographic images of royals were constantly reproduced, transforming the public perception of the royal family.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, sparking the First World War</td>
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<td>1917</td>
<td>The royal family change their name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor in response to anti-German sentiment</td>
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<td>1918</td>
<td>Representation of the People Act grants the vote to women over the age of 30</td>
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<td>1919</td>
<td>The Bolshevik Revolution, led by Vladimir Lenin, installs a Communist government in Russia</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>End of the First World War</td>
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<td>1920</td>
<td>The Nineteenth Amendment, giving women the right to vote, is ratified in the USA</td>
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<td>1926</td>
<td>The Balfour Declaration of 1926 recognises the equal autonomy of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and the Irish Free State with the UK</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>The Wall Street stock market crash in New York prompts the Great Depression</td>
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<td>1933</td>
<td>Election of Adolf Hitler as Chancellor of Germany</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>Outbreak of the Second World War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>End of the Second World War</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>George VI dies and is succeeded by Edward VIII; Edward VIII abdicates the throne and is succeeded by George VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>George VI dies and is succeeded by Queen Elizabeth II</td>
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<td>1953</td>
<td>James Watson and Francis Crick publish their discovery of the structure of DNA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>All Indigenous peoples in Australia receive the right to vote; The Cuban Missile Crisis</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas by Lee Harvey Oswald</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>First Race Relations Act addresses racial discrimination</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>Abortion and homosexuality are legalised under certain conditions</td>
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**The Windsors**

**Introduction**

The House of Windsor came into being during the First World War, when George V changed the Royal Family’s official name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. This royal house has reigned over a period of unprecedented change, weathering two world wars and radical transformations in technology and social mores.

Edward VIII’s affair with the American divorcee Wallis Simpson and subsequent abdication in 1936 rocked the establishment. Shortly after George VI’s accession, the Second World War broke out and the king and queen attracted widespread admiration for remaining in central London during the Blitz. Queen Elizabeth II inherited the throne in 1952, aged only twenty-five. Her portraits reveal the varied facets of modern monarchy, from movie star glamour to timeless duty and ideal motherhood. Her descendants have grown up in the glare of the world’s media spotlight as royal celebrities.

Elizabeth II’s reign is the longest of any British monarch. Today, her work as head of state is supported by a new generation, including William Duke of Cambridge, Catherine Duchess of Cambridge, Harry Duke of Sussex and Meghan Duchess of Sussex. They have become recognised as ambassadors for the UK and the charities they support worldwide.
The Windsors
CONTINUED
(1914- )

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UK</th>
<th>WORLDWIDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>The first baby conceived by in vitro fertilisation (IVF) is born at Oldham General Hospital, Greater Manchester</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Margaret Thatcher becomes Britain's first female Prime Minister</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>Tim Berners Lee invents the World Wide Web</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Diana, Princess of Wales, dies in a car accident in Paris</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Legalisation of same-sex marriage in England and Wales, followed by Scotland in 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Elizabeth II becomes the longest-reigning British monarch, surpassing her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>The UK votes in a referendum to leave the European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>The Australian Parliament legalises same-sex marriage</td>
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| 1968 | US Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr is assassinated |
| 1969 | First Moon landing by the USA |
| 1985 | Custodianship of Uluru is transferred back to its Anangu Traditional Owners |
| 1986 | The Australia Act makes Australian law fully independent of the British parliament and legal system |
| 1991 | Fall of the Berlin Wall marks beginning of the collapse of the Soviet Union |
| 1999 | Australia votes in a referendum to remain a Commonwealth country with Queen Elizabeth II as head of state |
| 2001 | Terrorists attack the World Trade Center in New York City and Pentagon in Washington, D.C., resulting in almost 3,000 deaths |
| 2008 | Australian Government issues formal apology for historic wrongs committed against the Indigenous populations; Barack Obama is elected the first African-American President of the USA |
| 2010 | Julia Gillard becomes the first female Prime Minister of Australia |
| 2015 | The United States Supreme Court legalises same-sex marriage |
| 2016 | The Australian Parliament legalises same-sex marriage |
The Windsors
Family Tree