

# Renaissance Portraits



Thursday 23 January – Thursday 19 March

Seminar Room 1, Sackler Centre, Level 1

Half Term: Thursday 20 February

10.30 - 13.00

Course Leader: Dr. Paula Nuttall

As images of individuals, portraits possess a unique fascination; in the words of Albrecht Dürer – one of the greatest renaissance portraitists – ‘a portrait enables a man to live after his death’. The renaissance saw the rise of the portrait as an art form, brought about by new ideas about posterity, commemoration and the self, by developments in naturalistic representation, and by burgeoning consumer demand. We will explore the evolution of portraiture, its production, and its many-faceted meanings, looking at a wide range of examples from Italy and northern Europe, in a variety of forms, media and contexts, including case studies of masterpieces by Jan van Eyck, Ghirlandaio, Holbein and Titian.

## Speakers:

**Dr. Paula Nuttall**, V&A Academy Year Course Director

**Dr. Catherine Reynolds**, Independent Scholar

**Dr. Geoff Nuttall**, Associate Lecturer, Courtauld Institute

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## **Week 1: Thursday 23 January – Portraiture in Context**

10.30: *The Development of Renaissance Portraiture*, Paula Nuttall

12.00: *Contexts, Function and Display*, Paula Nuttall

## **Week 2: Thursday 30 January – The Production of Portraits**

10.30: *Making Portraits*, Catherine Reynolds

12.00: *Marketing Portraits*, Catherine Reynolds

## **Week 3: Thursday 6 February – Husbands and Wives**

10.30: *Love, Betrothal and Marriage*, Paula Nuttall

12.00: *Case Study: Jan van Eyck: The Arnolfini Portrait*, Geoff Nuttall

## **Week 4: Thursday 13 February – Ancestry and the Soul**

10.30: *Devotion and Memory*, Geoff Nuttall

12.00: *Case Study: Ghirlandaio: The Tornabuoni Chapel*, Geoff Nuttall

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**Week 5: Thursday 27 February: Portraits and Power**

10.30: *Ruler Portraits*, Catherine Reynolds

12.00: Gallery Talks: *Antonio Rossellino's Bust of Giovanni Chellini*, Paula Nuttall  
Lecture: *The Burgundian Windows*, Catherine Reynolds

**Week 6: Thursday 5 March: Portraits Real and Imagined**

10.30: *Ideal and Disguised Portraits*, Paula Nuttall

12.00: *Case Study: Titian: The Vendramin Family*, Paula Nuttall

**Week 7: Thursday 12 March: Decoding the Portrait**

10.30: *Portrait Medals: close inspection session*, Paula Nuttall

12.00: *Case Study: Holbein: The Ambassadors*, Catherine Reynolds

**Week 8: Thursday 19 March: The World of the Artist**

10.30: *The Artist's Family and Friends*, Catherine Reynolds

12.00: *Self-Portraits*, Catherine Reynolds

\*\*\*This programme is subject to change.