

Press Release

**NEW HARLEY GALLERY TO OPEN IN MARCH 2016 TO
SHOWCASE HISTORIC PORTLAND COLLECTION**

**OPENING DISPLAY TO INCLUDE A RARELY SHOWN WORK BY
MICHELANGELO**

The new Harley Gallery at Welbeck, Nottinghamshire, opens on 20 March 2016. Designed by Hugh Broughton Architects, known for their award-winning Halley VI Antarctic Research Station, the new gallery will house changing displays of the historic Portland Collection.

The new 800 square meters building includes a glazed reception and two galleries. The Long Gallery has a soaring barrel-vaulted ceiling divided in two to allow soft light to spill into the space from above. The Treasury Gallery provides a flexible display space to show miniatures and other light-sensitive objects, as well as furniture and object d'art.

The new gallery will showcase masterpieces from The Portland Collection, including:

- Michelangelo's rarely seen *Madonna del Silenzio* (c.1538) will go on show for the first time in fifty years
- The pearl earring worn by Charles I at his execution in 1649
- The Portland Tiara by Cartier worn by Winifred, Duchess of Portland at the coronation of Edward VII
- George Stubbs painting of the 3rd Duke of Portland on horseback outside the stables of Welbeck
- *The Coronation Miniature*, a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I by Nicholas Hilliard which is part of the collection of over 400 miniatures

William Parente, grandson of The 7th Duke, said:

“Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire have not had an easy time economically since the pit closures, and everyone locally, businesses, council, private individuals, has had to work very hard to make things happen. Trying to make the area a more attractive place to visit is obviously important, and as part of this we felt that the time had come to welcome the public to see the Portland Collection. It has been painstakingly assembled by my family over the last 400 years or so. These things are our history; each generation learns from them and adds to them as they can. But they are also part of our collective history as people: they chart the way people, places, tastes and society have changed over the centuries – everyone should be able to enjoy them.”

The inaugural displays will include miniature portraits selected by Sir Peter Blake, showing 20 March to 31 August 2016. The Portland Collection has one

of the largest and most significant privately owned collections of miniatures in the country.

Listings information

The Harley Gallery
Welbeck, Worksop
Nottinghamshire
S80 3LW

Opens to the public Sunday 20 March 2016

Free Admission

www.harleygallery.co.uk

T: 01909 501 700

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Notes to Editors

Welbeck Estate

Welbeck Abbey was founded as a monastery in 1153. When Henry VIII became Supreme Head of the Church of England in the 1530's, he dissolved the monastery and Welbeck Abbey was bought by a member of the King's court. Bess of Hardwick's youngest son, Sir Charles Cavendish, acquired the Welbeck Estate in 1607, and his grand tour, taken with Sir Henry Wotton, would set the scene for Welbeck to embrace architecture and the arts. Since then the estate has continued to be handed down through the family, with each generation leaving their own mark on both the architecture at Welbeck, and the family fine and decorative art collection. Family members include Margaret, Duchess of Portland, the namesake of The Portland Vase, Sir Edward Harley, 2nd Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, whose collection of manuscripts was the foundation of the British Library, and twice-prime minister, the 3rd Duke of Portland.

The Harley Foundation

The Harley Foundation is a charitable trust set up by Ivy, Duchess of Portland to encourage the enjoyment of the visual arts. The Foundation funds the galleries, and in opening the new exhibition space for The Portland Collection brings both historical and contemporary making practice face to face, illustrating this continuum of craft. The Foundation provides services for artists through support schemes, retail opportunities in The Harley Shop and subsidised studio spaces. The Harley Studios provide space for up to 25 artists and makers to work, in the beautiful surroundings of the Welbeck Estate, Nottinghamshire.

Hugh Broughton Architects

Hugh Broughton Architects was formed in 1996 and has a reputation for producing carefully crafted contemporary architecture. The practice has designed projects for many high profile clients including the British Council, Institution of Structural Engineers, National Galleries of Scotland, Royal Society of Chemistry and the TUC. The practice is best known for the design of Maidstone Museum East Wing, which completed in 2012 and received an RIBA Downland Award, three AJ Retrofit awards and a Civic Trust Commendation; and Halley VI Antarctic Research Station designed for the British Antarctic Survey, which was officially launch in 2013 and has received fifteen international awards to date. It is an extraordinary project which has led to numerous other international polar commissions and is the subject of a new building monograph published by Park Books in 2015. The practice's redevelopment of the Henry Moore Foundation, in Perry Green, Hertfordshire will also complete in Spring 2016. The restoration of the Painted Hall for the Old Royal Naval College Greenwich and dramatic new interpretation and visitor facilities at Clifford's Tower in York for English Heritage are also currently in development.