

28th April 2016

## Press information

### **The Harley Gallery Scoops Top Prize Amongst Four RIBA Awards**

The new gallery at The Harley Gallery, on the Welbeck Estate near Worksop, which houses the treasures of The Portland Collection, was last night awarded four accolades at the RIBA East Midlands Awards, including 'Building of the Year'.

The prestigious awards ceremony, organised by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), took place on Wednesday 27th April at Nottingham Contemporary and recognises architectural excellence. Hosted by BBC East Midlands TV presenter Marie Ashby and guest of honour RIBA President, Jane Duncan, The Harley Gallery walked away with a 'RIBA regional award', as well as 'RIBA East Midlands Sustainability Award', 'RIBA East Midlands Conservation Award' and the top prize 'RIBA East Midlands Building of the Year'.

Working alongside Hugh Broughton Architects, the new gallery opened in March 2016 after several years of planning and is carefully curated and designed to display a world class collection. The Portland Collection is one of the finest accumulations of paintings, sculpture, books, tapestries and furniture in private hands and was assembled by the Dukes of Portland and their ancestors, whom have lived at Welbeck Abbey for over 400 years.

Images: <http://bit.ly/1QCOrFt>

Lisa Gee, Director at The Harley Gallery, said: "We wanted a building which would hold its own among the historic buildings already on the Welbeck Estate and that would have longevity. The finished building and its displays draw on all of our ideas and inspirations. Architectural concerns, curatorial ideas and historic interiors all play their part in giving the new gallery its unique atmosphere. The lovely handmade bricks for the entrance pavilion,

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and beautiful attention to detail in all of the finishes, hark back to The Harley Foundation's commitment to craftsmanship and the mark of the hand."

RIBA Regional Director Mike Baulcombe said of The Portland Collection: "This is an exceptional project, evidenced by the well-deserved four awards received, including the coveted RIBA East Midlands Building of the Year. The judges were particularly impressed by the perfect combination of a highly informed client willing to invest in the best possible design solution, and an innovative architect in Hugh Broughton, who understood the complex site and carefully integrated old and new elements using strong sustainability and conservation principles."

RIBA East Midlands Award winners will also be considered for a highly-coveted RIBA National Award in recognition of their architectural excellence, which will be announced in June. Following this a shortlist for the RIBA Stirling Prize, for the Best Building of the Year, will be drawn from the RIBA National award-winning buildings later in the year.

For more information on the awards and winners, visit the [RIBA Awards 2016 website](#).

**-ENDS-**

### **RIBA East Midlands Awards:**

For 50 years the RIBA awards and prizes have championed and celebrated the best architecture in the UK and around the world, no matter the form; size or budget.

Successful projects reflect changes and innovations in architecture, but at their core display a commitment to designing and developing buildings and spaces for the improvement and enhancement of people's lives.

[www.architecture.com/Awards/Awards2016/Awards2016](http://www.architecture.com/Awards/Awards2016/Awards2016)

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### **Three Nottinghamshire buildings won 2016 architecture awards:**

- Heart of Campus, Nottingham Trent University by Evans Vettori Architects
- Nottingham One by Levitate
- The Portland Collection, Welbeck Estate, Worksop by Hugh Broughton Architects

### **The other RIBA East Midlands Award-winning buildings are:**

- Contour House, Derbyshire by Sanei Hopkins Architects
- Derby Arena by FaulknerBrowns Architects
- Garden Buildings, Warmington, Northamptonshire by Ashworth Parkes Architects
- Leicester Print Workshop by Takero Shimazaki Architects
- Lincoln Castle Revealed by Arrol & Snell
- Private house, Northamptonshire by James Gorst Architects

### **The Portland Collection:**

The new gallery showcases masterpieces from The Portland Collection, including:

- Michelangelo's *Madonna del Silenzio* (c.1538), on show for the first time in 50 years
- A rarely seen Van Dyck painting of Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford and advisor to Charles I, not publicly exhibited since 1960
- The pearl earring worn by Charles I at his execution in 1649
- The Portland Tiara by Cartier worn by Winifred, Duchess of Portland to the coronation of Edward VII, and drawings of the tiara on display for the first time
- George Stubbs painting of the 3rd Duke of Portland on horseback outside the stables at Welbeck

### **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,

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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 launched in 2013 and has received fifteen international awards to date.

### **The Harley Gallery:**

The Harley Gallery is where old and new come together. Home to the historic Portland Collection of fine and decorative art, displays from this internationally significant collection are accompanied by exhibitions from leading contemporary artists.

Additional attractions include events, ranging from tours of the State Rooms at Welbeck Abbey to meeting craftspeople at the Open Studios, a café serving homemade meals and snacks, shop specialising in contemporary crafts, and children's activity area.

Situated on the picturesque Welbeck Estate in Nottinghamshire, The Harley Gallery is easily reached from the A1 and M1.

Free entry. Free parking. [www.harleygallery.co.uk](http://www.harleygallery.co.uk)

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