

24 August 2016

## Press information

### **Last Chance to see Sir Peter Blake Miniatures at The Portland Collection, Welbeck**

An opportunity to see a display of extraordinary miniatures selected by pop art pioneer Sir Peter Blake, as part of The Portland Collection on the historic Welbeck estate, is nearing a close as works from the light sensitive collection return to storage.

The current display from the collection shows the historic portraits in a most unusual way with many different faces from different periods forming a 'magical crowd' reminiscent of Sir Peter Blake's famous album cover for The Beatles' Sgt Peppers Lonely Heart Club Band. The last chance to see the display will be Sunday 18th September.

In place of Sir Peter Blake's selection a new display of miniatures selected by Art Historian Karen Hearn, curatorial advisor to The Portland Collection, honorary professor at UCL and previous Curator of 16th & 17th Century British Art at the Tate Galleries, will be on show from Saturday 24th September.

Sir Peter Blake said: "I am delighted to work with the amazing Portland Collection of miniatures. Many of them are very important and are usually shown in small numbers in historically relevant displays."

Lisa Gee, Director at The Harley Gallery, said: "Many of the miniatures are painted with watercolour paint which is light sensitive. We make sure that they are protected from light for set periods throughout the year. As a result we are working with a different curator every six months giving different perspectives on the same collection. Sir Peter's choice was so personal to him and shows how we all view art through our own particular experiences. Karen is taking a more scholarly approach which offers another window onto this amazing collection."

24 August 2016

## Press information

The Portland Miniatures are displayed in a specialist viewing area by Exhibition Designer John Ronayne, which uses sophisticated PIR technology to manage light levels in order to protect the works for generations to come.

The Portland Collection, assembled over 400 years by the Dukes of Portland and their families, has one of the largest and most significant privately owned collections of miniatures in the country. The current display of over 80 delicate miniatures have been on show since the gallery's opening in March and once tucked away in storage many will not reappear for years to come.

For more information, visit: [www.harleygallery.co.uk](http://www.harleygallery.co.uk).

**-ENDS-**

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **Visit us at Welbeck:**

Visit the Courtyard at Welbeck for great food, great art and great shopping. A focus on low food miles and rich food heritage has earned Welbeck Farm Shop a reputation as one of the country's top farm shops. Across the Courtyard sits The Harley Gallery, an award winning art gallery where contemporary exhibitions are shown alongside displays from Welbeck's own historic Portland Collection.

Don't miss the 'Made at Welbeck' range, from Stichelton cheese, Welbeck Abbey Brewery and Welbeck Bakehouse to contemporary craft.

The Courtyard is open daily 10am – 5pm (4pm Sundays). Free entry. Free parking.

[www.welbeck.co.uk](http://www.welbeck.co.uk)

24 August 2016

## Press information

### **The Portland Collection:**

Unveiled to the public on Sunday 20th March, the new gallery houses treasures of The Portland Collection, assembled over 400 years by the Dukes of Portland. Masterpieces include: Michelangelo's Madonna del Silenzio, on show for the first time in 50 years; Van Dyck's paintings of a young Charles II in armour and Thomas Wentworth, 1st Earl of Strafford, not publicly exhibited since 1960, as well as the pearl earring worn by Charles I at his execution in 1649.

### **Sir Peter Blake:**

Sir Peter Blake is renowned for his collages and is probably best known as the creator of the iconic Beatles album cover for Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

### **For further press information please contact:**

Carly Jones ([carlyj@redbrickcommunications.com](mailto:carlyj@redbrickcommunications.com))

Steve Houghton ([steveh@redbrickcommunications.com](mailto:steveh@redbrickcommunications.com))

Redbrick Communications, 68 St James's Street, Nottingham, NG1 6FJ

T: 0115 9101500, [www.redbrickcommunications.com](http://www.redbrickcommunications.com)