

8 September 2016

## Press information

### **The Harley Gallery Invites BP Portrait Travel Award Winner to Create New Exhibition**

This winter two new exhibitions will open at Welbeck's Harley Gallery, exploring how artists capture the personality of their sitters using more than just a pretty face.

The Harley Gallery, on the Welbeck estate in north Notts, has invited award-winning artist Sophie Ploeg to make a new series of works, which has been inspired by the portraits currently on show in The Portland Collection gallery at Welbeck .

For **'Identity and Dress' (29 October 2016 - 8 January 2017)**, Ploeg has clothed her contemporary sitters in historically inspired costumes to create highly detailed, luscious portraits. She explains:

"I like to use painted fabrics to point you to the past - our past - and show you a bit of the beauty of our history. Historical fashion and fabrics are tools to dive into a fantasy world with some very strong links to current modern taste and historical facts. I can pick and choose from the past and try to create images that are beautiful, a touch mysterious, recognisable or even contemporary."

Also showing is one of England's best known contemporary folk artists, Julie Arkell, who presents **'Away Away' (5 November 2016 - 8 January 2017)**, where her beautiful mythical 'creatures' will fill a landscape of knitted ponds, paths and even shadows. Each of these creatures are assembled through knit, stitch and papier-mâché. Although their faces are neutral, they are given unique characters through clothing which is often adorned with words or phrases.

**Identity and Dress, Sophie Ploeg**

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**29 October 2016 - 8 January 2017**

[www.harleygallery.co.uk/exhibition/identityanddress](http://www.harleygallery.co.uk/exhibition/identityanddress)

The Harley Gallery has invited Sophie Ploeg to create a new series of detailed portraiture, inspired by the early history of Welbeck and the luxurious fabrics and embellishments such as velvet, lace and embroidery seen in many paintings in The Portland Collection. These fabrics could only be afforded by Elizabethan and Jacobean aristocracy in the 16th and 17th centuries and were so magnificent that they were often the focus within portraits. Ploeg's portraits show distinctly modern sitters dressed in costumes with historical echoes, which are made or collected by the artist for the purpose of her paintings.

Sophie Ploeg was the winner of the 2013 BP Portrait Travel Award. With the award she created a series of new paintings, which will be shown in addition to her new work for The Harley Gallery. [www.sophieploeg.com](http://www.sophieploeg.com)

**Away Away, Julie Arkell**

**5 November 2016 - 8 January 2017**

[www.harleygallery.co.uk/exhibition/away-away](http://www.harleygallery.co.uk/exhibition/away-away)

Two years on since her exhibition 'Away', a cast of incredible creatures assembled through, knit, stitch and papier-mâché, at Ruthin Craft Centre, in Wales, Julie Arkell returns to public exhibition with 'Away Away'.

'Away Away' is developed from a dream Arkell had. She decided to expand her collection of nature books and in turn think about the spaces surrounding the 'creatures' and objects she creates. Influenced by nature's mountains, lakes, hills, snowy landscapes and solitary trees, Arkell creates imaginary landscapes for her creations, including their own knitted ponds.

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From 25 - 27 November, Welbeck's annual **Christmas Art and Food Market** returns for its 16th year. Jewellery, ceramics, prints and textiles combined with the artisan food produced on this historic estate has earned the Market its reputation as an important Christmas shopping destination. Admission is free.

For more information on The Harley Gallery 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)

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