

Tudor Portraits

Dates Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 May 2024

Times 18.00-20.00 BST

Location Online (Zoom Webinar)

Tutor Dr Christina Faraday

Level All Levels



Attributed to Steven van der Meulen, *Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester*, about 1560-1564

Course Description

The Tudor age produced some of the earliest English 'likenesses', from life-size images of monarchs to intimate portrait miniatures. Delve into the artistic, religious and political world of 16th-century England through a number of striking works from the Wallace Collection and beyond. You'll uncover the meanings contributed by techniques, formats and symbols to reveal the ways that portraits were made and used by people across Tudor society - from the intimacy of the artist's studio, to the professional setting of the livery company, and on the public stage of the royal court.

Session One: 'Painted for Eternity' - Tudor Oil Portraits

In our first session, we'll learn how large-scale oil portraiture developed over the 16th century – a period that gave rise to some of the earliest 'portraits', in the sense of likenesses, in England. We'll uncover the techniques involved in creating a large-scale oil portrait as well as the surprising origins of its materials. Finally, we'll consider the possible motivations that inspired sitters to commission their portraits, from the professional and dynastic, to the moral and memorial.

Session Two: 'A Kind of Gentle Painting' - Tudor Portrait Miniatures

In our second session we'll turn to the most intimate art of the Tudor age – the portrait miniature or 'limning'. We'll trace the genre from its origins in illuminated books to its celebrated blossoming at the Elizabethan court. As we examine the distinctive techniques and material 'special effects' of this peculiarly English craft, we'll also consider the lives and careers of the most famous miniaturists, and discover how the artform inspired the most brilliant poets of the age.

Course Tutor

Dr Christina Faraday is a Research Fellow in History of Art at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge, and a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Thinker. She specialises in the fine and decorative arts of Tudor and Stuart Britain, with wider interests in music, rhetoric and the history of ideas. From 2017 to 2019 she was a Curatorial Intern at the National Portrait Gallery, on the exhibition *Elizabethan Treasures: Miniatures by Hilliard and Oliver* (2019), and has recently published a book about 'liveliness' (or vividness) in Tudor art. She regularly writes for wider audiences in outlets such as *Apollo* magazine, BBC Radio 3 and *The Telegraph*, and was shortlisted for the 2021 British Journalism Awards in the Arts and Entertainment Category.

Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience

None required. This course is designed as an introduction to the subject.

Joining Information and Format

This course will be taught through [Zoom Webinar](#). Each course session duration is 120 minutes, including a five-minute break and time for Q&A with the tutor.

Tickets are for all dates. Ticket holders will be emailed the Zoom link, Webinar ID and Passcode 24 hours in advance of the first course session, which should be retained for accessing both sessions of the course.

Course Recording

This course will be recorded. Within 48 hours of each course session, ticket holders will be emailed a link to view the recording, which will be available for two weeks only.
