

## Small Great Things: Miniatures in the Wallace Collection

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<b>Dates</b>	Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 January 2022
<b>Times</b>	14.00-16.00 GMT
<b>Location</b>	Zoom Webinar
<b>Tutor</b>	Stephen Duffy
<b>Level</b>	All Levels

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Peter Adolf Hall, *The Painter's Family*, 1776

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### Course Description

From the early 16th century to the mid-19th century, the painting of miniatures was at the forefront of European culture. Although difficult to define precisely, miniatures are essentially small paintings, often portraits, that can be held in the hand or worn as a piece of jewellery. At first they were painted on vellum, but later they were commonly painted on ivory or card. Even though the social status of miniature painters has usually, but not always, been inferior to that of painters on panel and canvas, some of the most beautiful works of art ever made are miniatures.

The Wallace Collection is fortunate to care for more than 330 miniatures. Among them are splendid examples by British, Swiss and Italian artists, but the most distinctive characteristic of the collection - unmatched in Britain - is the superb array of French works from the 18th and early-19th centuries. In this course, we'll look at the formation of the collection and study closely a wide range of these spellbinding works of art.

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## **Session One - The History of Miniature Painting and the Wallace Collection's Miniatures**

The history of miniature painting is exceptionally fascinating and complex, from its beginnings in 16th-century court culture, to its near demise in the 19th century - when photography threatened its existence - through to its revival in recent decades. Today, miniatures are still painted by highly-skilled artists and collected by dedicated admirers.

The Wallace Collection, which was brought together by the first four Marquesses of Hertford and Sir Richard Wallace, is a family collection in its origins and very much reflects the tastes of its founders - this is as true for the miniatures as it is for other aspects of the Collection. In our first session, we'll trace the history of miniature painting before considering how the collection at Hertford House was formed, looking closely at some of the works of particular significance to the founders.

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## **Session Two - French and British (and some other) Miniatures in the Wallace Collection**

The miniatures at the Wallace Collection date overwhelmingly from the 18th and 19th centuries, and well over two thirds of them are French, including masterpieces by such major artists as Charlier, the van Blarenberghes, Hall, Isabey, Augustin and Madame de Mirbel. France has made an enormously important contribution to miniature painting, but perhaps an even greater one has been made by Britain. Of British works, the Wallace Collection displays excellent examples by such major figures as Isaac Oliver, Samuel Cooper, Cosway, Bone and Sir William Ross. In our second session, we'll delve into the latter areas of the miniatures collection alongside some fascinating examples from other schools of artists.

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### **Course Tutor**

Stephen Duffy retired as Senior Curator of the Wallace Collection in 2014. He had particular responsibility for 19th century paintings and miniatures. Among his publications are: with Christoph Martin Vogtherr, *Miniatures in the Wallace Collection* (2010); with Jo Hedley, *The Wallace Collection's Pictures: An Illustrated Catalogue* (2003); *Paul Delaroche (1797-1856): Paintings in the Wallace Collection* (1997); *Richard Parkes Bonington* (2006); and *The Discovery of Paris: Watercolours by Early Nineteenth-Century British Artists* (2013). He is an accredited lecturer for The Arts Society.

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### **Previous Skills, Knowledge or Experience**

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

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### **Joining Information and Format**

This course will be taught through Zoom Webinar. For more information, including instructions on how to download and use the system, please visit [www.zoom.us/support](http://www.zoom.us/support).

Each course session duration is 120 minutes, including a five-minute break and time for Q&A with the tutor. Tickets are for both 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.

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### **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 one week only.

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