

Depicting Dress. A professional workshop on male and female dress in eighteenth-century portraits

Wednesday 20 September 2017, 10.30 — 16.30

A collaborative workshop offered by the Understanding British Portraits professional network and The School of Historical Dress

Led by Professor Jenny Tiramani, Director, with Vanessa Hopkins and Claire Thornton, The School for Historical Dress

Venue: The School of Historical Dress, 52 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7PP.  Lambeth North

Programme

10.30—10.50 Registration and refreshments

10.50—11.20 Introduction

This introduction will consider how an understanding of contemporary clothing is a vital research tool, enhancing portrait interpretation by providing contextual information on the sitter and his or her contemporary world.

11.20—12.15 Identifying fabrics in portraiture using surviving eighteenth-century examples from the School's collection

During this session, delegates will make a fabric sample card to keep as a point of future reference.

12.15—13.00 Understanding layers

A discussion and demonstration of the seen and unseen layers of male and female clothing.

13.00-14.00 Light lunch provided for delegates

14.00—14.45 Reading the signs

A series of case studies demonstrating how to decode British portraits for indications of the sitters' social status and profession, as well as portrait dating.

14.45—15.15 A practical session

15.15—15.40 Refreshments

15.40—16.30 Costume and light

A dressing demonstration allowing delegates to consider the effect of daylight and authentic beeswax candlelight on eighteenth-century costume, and how that relates to costume depictions in portraiture.

16.30 Close and evaluation

Please turn over for details of how to apply. A limited number of complimentary tickets are available to staff at Accredited collections, as well as travel grants.

How to apply:

Due to the practical demonstrations and participatory elements of the workshop, delegate places at this event are limited. Tickets will be allocated in a way which allows delegates from as many different collections as possible, as well as independent scholars, to attend. Thanks to Arts Council England, we are able to offer complimentary tickets to staff at Accredited collections, and the remaining tickets will cost £40 (incl. vat). We also have some travel funding available for delegates.

To apply, please email Caroline Pegum, Researcher/Co-ordinator of the *Understanding British Portraits* professional network cpegum@npg.org.uk before the close of **Friday 28 July 2017** to express your interest in attending. Please specify briefly (1) your particular interest in the event and (2) whether you are applying for travel support and the sum requested. All applicants are eligible to apply for travel support, and costs must be on the basis of the most economical travel option. Where support is confirmed by email, delegates will make their own travel bookings and reimbursement of the agreed sum will be made by BACS payment after the event.

Places will be allocated as described above and all applicants emailed in w/c 31 July 2017.