

National Portrait Gallery

The **National Portrait Gallery** is an art gallery in London, England, housing a collection of portraits of historically important and famous [British](#) people. It was the first portrait gallery in the world when it opened in 1856. The gallery moved in 1896 to its current site at St Martin's Place, off [Trafalgar Square](#), and adjoining the [National Gallery, London](#) at the side. It has been expanded twice since then.

The gallery houses [portraits](#) of historically important and famous [British](#) people, selected on the basis of the significance of the sitter. The collection includes [photographs](#) and [caricatures](#) as well as [paintings](#), [drawings](#) and [sculpture](#). The National Portrait Gallery also houses the [Chandos portrait](#), arguably the most famous portrait of [William Shakespeare](#).

Not all of the portraits are exceptional artistically, although there are self-portraits by [William Hogarth](#), Sir [Joshua Reynolds](#) and other British artists of note. Some, such as the group portrait of the participants in the [Somerset House](#) Conference of 1604, are important historical documents in their own right. Often the curiosity value is greater than the artistic worth of a work, as in the case of the [anamorphic](#) portrait of [Edward VI](#) by [William Scrots](#), [Patrick Branwell Brontë](#)'s painting of his sisters [Charlotte](#), [Emily](#) and [Anne](#), or a sculpture of [Queen Victoria](#) and [Prince Albert](#) in medieval costume. Portraits of living figures were allowed from 1969.

In addition to its permanent galleries of historical portraits, the National Portrait Gallery exhibits a rapidly changing collection of contemporary work, stages exhibitions of portrait art by individual artists and hosts the annual [BP Portrait Prize](#) competition.

Choose on portrait.

Describe it :

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Explain why do you choose it :

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