

THE
HOLBURNE
MUSEUM

A NEW PORTRAIT FOR BATH

Learning Programme Project Report
June 2016 - September 2017

A NEW PORTRAIT FOR BATH

In January 2016, through a major funding campaign, the Holburne Museum acquired an unfinished study of a young man called Arthur Atherley, by Sir Thomas Lawrence. Since Autumn 2016 this portrait has been the focus of an exciting and wide-reaching Learning and Engagement Programme *A New Portrait for Bath* involving:

Families

- ◆ a competition for all ages
- ◆ a 'Toddlealong' session for Under 5s
- ◆ a family workshop
- ◆ a family fun day

Young People

- ◆ an art masterclass for young people

Primary Schools

- ◆ a Take One project with local primary schools

Secondary Schools

- ◆ a School Leavers' Project with local artists

Adult Learning

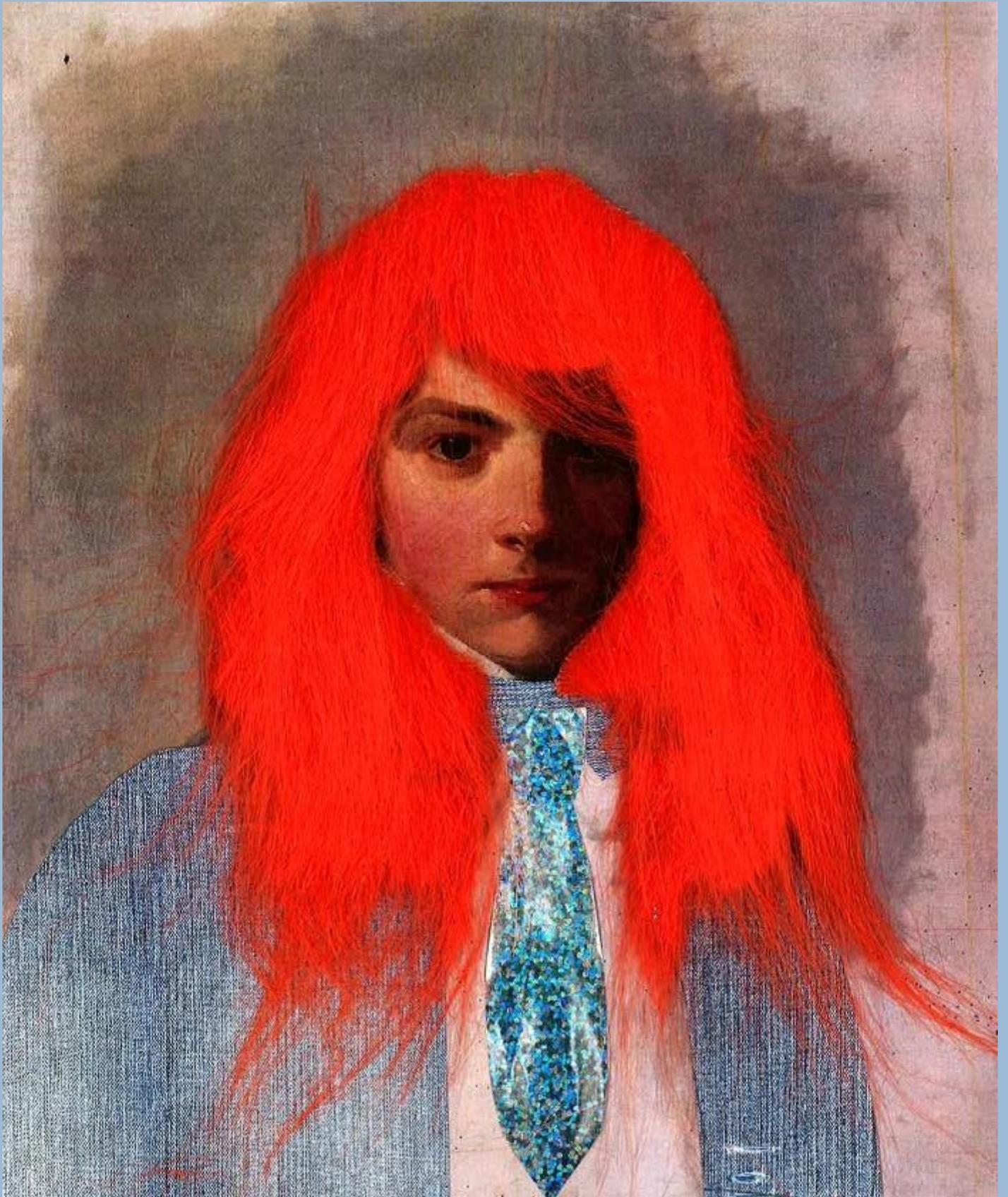
- ◆ an 'Up Late' event and an evening lecture
- ◆ an oil painting workshop for adults

Community Engagement

- ◆ a 6-week oil painting course with the Gardener's Lodge Art Group
- ◆ tactile workshops for blind and partially sighted people
- ◆ art workshops for deaf and hard of hearing visitors
- ◆ visits to retirement homes and social groups for senior citizens

Supported by
The Medlock Charitable Trust







COMPETITION

The Finishing Touch

We asked our visitors to 'finish' Sir Thomas Lawrence's unfinished study of Arthur Atherley in their own unique way. We were delighted with the range of imaginative entries which made for an exciting judging process. Winning entries were displayed in the museum.

We were overwhelmed by the standard of entries in all age categories. It was very difficult to choose from such a great selection. Entrants rose to the challenge with creativity and humour. Young Arthur was transformed through a range of media from digital art to collage. He became everything from a pirate to an astronaut.

Jennifer Scott

Holburne Director, 2014-2017



Our weekly 'Toddlealong' workshops, led by Chrissie Weltike, are held in the cosy environment of the Gardener's Lodge. They help parents and pre-school children to play and learn together through songs, stories, and creative activities inspired by the Museum's collection and exhibitions.



TODDLEALONG

...to Meet Arthur!



We delivered four 'Toddlealong' workshops with 48 parents and children. Everyone enjoyed dressing up as Arthur, decorating their own gold frames and putting themselves into a giant portrait.

Focussing on just one painting was a new and exciting experience for the group. The children surrounded the portrait in the gallery and listened to Laura Bridges, the Museum's Learning Co-ordinator, tell them all about Arthur.



A great opportunity to learn more about the museum's latest acquisition and lots of fun!

Isabelle and Amelia King
Workshop participants, March 2017



FAMILY WORKSHOP

Playful Portraits in Clay

We delivered a family workshop for 20 people, creating playful portraits in clay with local artist Clare Day. Families enjoyed learning about our new portrait and had a fantastic time sculpting their own clay creations.





FAMILY FUN DAY

Framed!

Our free family fun day was enjoyed by over **200 people**. The whole day was inspired by our painting of Arthur Atherley. Families were able to explore the art of portrait drawing in our artist-led workshops with illustrators Sam Church and Hannah Carding. Children enjoyed dressing in Georgian fancy dress and taking part in a range of activities including clay portrait busts; mini-me portrait spoons and framed family trees.





Teaching portraiture at the Holburne Museum was an amazing experience. The building itself is inspirational and the staff made the whole weekend an absolute pleasure, both for myself and my students.

Rob Lunn

Workshop leader, April 2017

YOUNG PEOPLE

Art Masterclass

We delivered an art masterclass in oil painting for 15 young people with local artist Rob Lunn. Participants were guided through the process, learning how to create a tonal self-portrait. Most of the participants learnt a new skill, using oil paints for the first time. One participant went on to take part in our annual Bronze Arts Award week.





I enjoyed doing the painting workshop because I don't usually paint or feel positive about painting and this really helped.

School Pupil

Oldfield Park Junior School, March 2017

TAKE ONE

...Portrait of Arthur Atherley



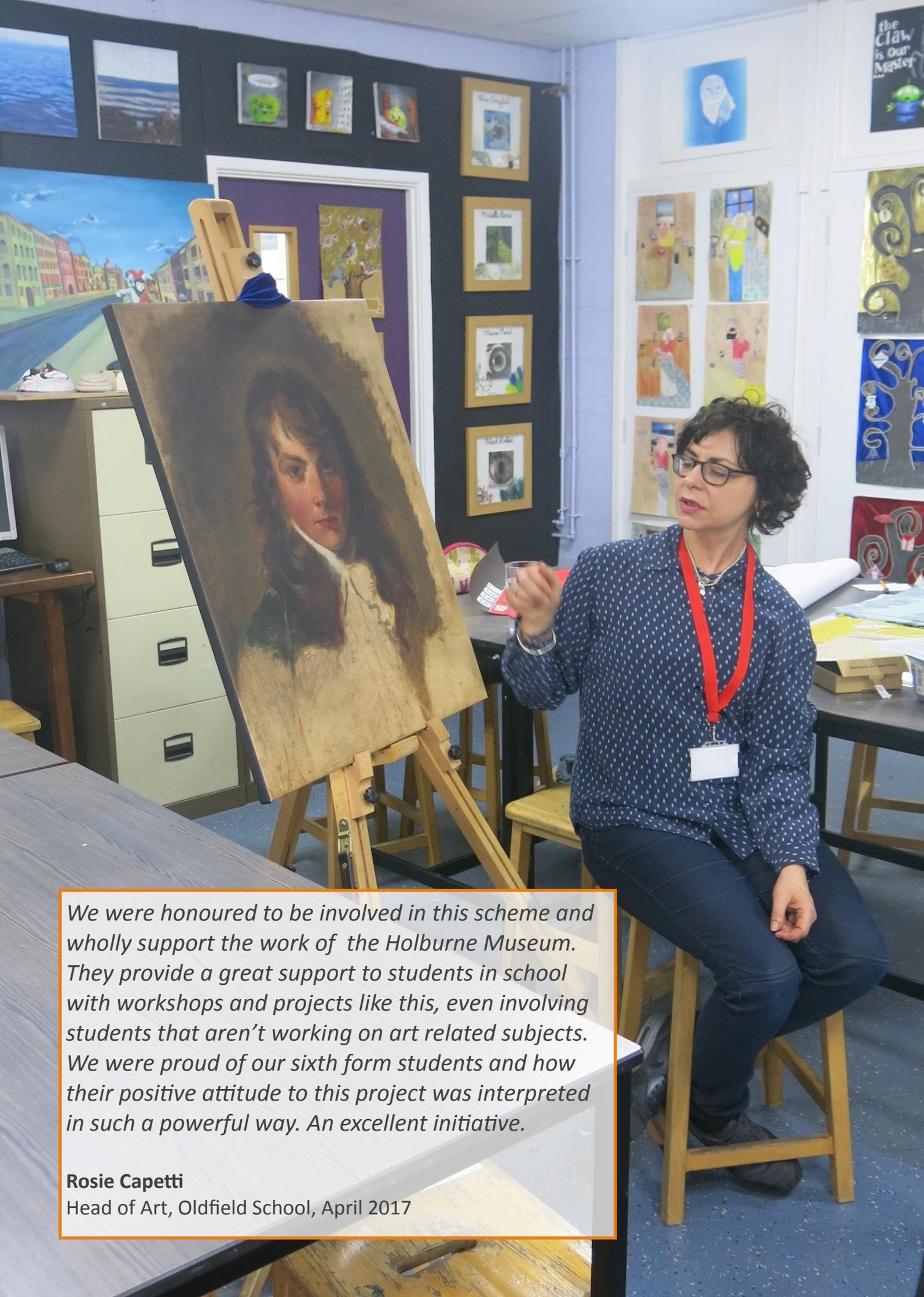
Take One is a programme developed by the National Gallery to support primary school teachers to develop exciting cross-curricular projects focussing on one museum object. The portrait of Arthur Atherley was the sole focus of our 2017 Take One programme. **We trained 27 teachers from 10 schools** including the entire staff of one school.



We transformed the Museum's Clore Learning Space into *Miss Simmons' School of Art for Young Gentlefolk* and **delivered 14 workshops for 468 pupils and teachers**. Pupils were captivated by our portrait and left with their very own masterpiece. **We held an exhibition at the Museum to celebrate the children's work.**



PRIMARY SCHOOLS



We were honoured to be involved in this scheme and wholly support the work of the Holburne Museum. They provide a great support to students in school with workshops and projects like this, even involving students that aren't working on art related subjects. We were proud of our sixth form students and how their positive attitude to this project was interpreted in such a powerful way. An excellent initiative.

Rosie Capetti

Head of Art, Oldfield School, April 2017

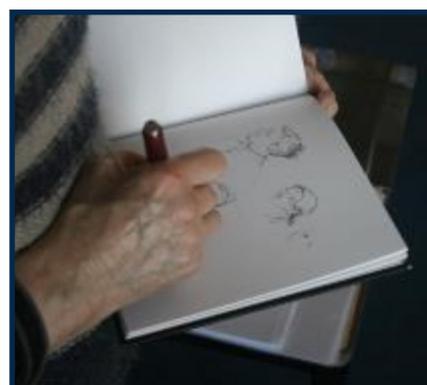
ARTISTS AND SCHOOL LEAVERS' PROJECT

Our youthful portrait of Arthur Atherley, aged around 19 and on the verge of leaving Eton, inspired our Artists and School Leavers' Project. **Six local artists were each paired with a local sixth form. Each artist created an artwork in response to the students' aspirations and anxieties about leaving school. The artwork was exhibited in the museum from 28 June - 2 July 2017.**



The following artists worked with these local schools:

- ◇ Beechen Cliff School and Sam Church
- ◇ King Edward's School and Karen Wallis
- ◇ Oldfield School and Richard Twose
- ◇ Ralph Allen School and Elise Menghini
- ◇ The New Sixth Bath and Clare Day
- ◇ The Royal High School and Penny Leaver Green



SECONDARY SCHOOLS



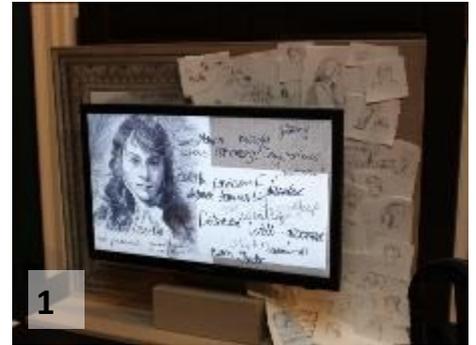
Working on the New Portrait for Bath project has been a fantastic and varied experience. I got on well with the students I talked to, but found 'bottling the essence' of our conversation a real challenge; balancing a duty not to generalise with the fact that I'd really only got a tiny glance at how they perceive the world. I wound up documenting the whole experience as a handmade book, which I hope is as well received by the school as it was by the lovely staff at the Holburne!

Sam Church

Project Artist, July 2017

School Leavers' Project: Exhibition

1. *Uncertain Times* Karen Wallis
2. *People of our generation are easy to fool* Sam Church
3. *Seventeen* Richard Twose
4. *The Wheel of Life* Elise Menghini
5. *A Leaver's Dress* Penny Leaver Green
6. *An Unfolding* Clare Day



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

TALKS

Evening Lecture

Desmond Shawe-Taylor, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, delivered an engaging lecture on Thomas Lawrence and the Waterloo Chamber, which was attended by 76 people. The Waterloo Chamber captures three extraordinary, parallel lives, of Napoleon, George IV and Thomas Lawrence.



Pop Up Talk

Volunteers delivered several pop-up talks about the portrait at our April Up Late. These events take place on the last Friday of each month where visitors can enjoy exploring the galleries and exhibition after 5pm followed by music in the Garden Café. **Three volunteers were trained and delivered pop-up talks in front of 35 people.** Each talk was different and reflected the character and enthusiasm of the volunteer. One of the talks was delivered by a former member of the 'Youth Forum'.

I was a little nervous about delivering even a short talk to perhaps quite a knowledgeable audience but you took me through what I would need to do and gave me some very useful notes which provided an excellent starting point for research. I went to see other portraits by Lawrence in London and began to understand something of his style and the way he used paint effects to bring out the best in his subjects and read more about his life.

Elaine Pippard

Museum Volunteer, August 2017

ADULT WORKSHOP

Paint a Self-portrait in Oils

For the first time at the Holburne Museum, we were able to offer an **intensive two-day masterclass** in this exciting medium. Local artist Rob Lunn delivered a step-by-step guide to painting a self-portrait in oils from the initial charcoal sketch through to the finished portrait. Participants were taught to mix skin tones and even make their own paint. **The workshop was fully booked with 12 people** taking part, many of whom were beginners who had not used oil paints before. It was such a joy to be able to offer this opportunity and get a sense of the process undertaken by Sir Thomas Lawrence.



...Had a great weekend at Rob Lunn's portrait painting workshop at the Holburne Museum. Learnt so much I can feel my synapses sparking!

Emily Clarke
Workshop participant, March 2017



The **Gardener's Lodge Art Group** meets weekly in the Gardener's Lodge in Sydney Gardens and is part of the Holburne Museum's outreach programme. The group offers creative opportunities for people who have been affected by homelessness and associated issues including mental health and social isolation. The group provides a friendly and supportive space in which people can develop their art skills, be creative and meet other people in a safe environment.



I was very impressed with how receptive the group was to what some might think was a daunting task – painting a portrait in oils with a life model. All but one member of the group had never painted in oils before. I found them to be extremely open and engaged with everything I suggested. Each person seemed to be really proud of what they had produced.

Sally Muir March 2017



PATHWAYS TO WELLBEING
CHANGING LIVES THROUGH ART

GARDENER'S LODGE ART GROUP

Paint a Portrait in Oils with Sally Muir

12 members of the Gardener's Lodge Art Group enjoyed a 6-week oil painting course, learning to paint portraits from a life model. Artist Sally Muir taught the group how to prepare their canvas and mix skin tones to create a dynamic portrait. The paintings were beautifully displayed in the Brownsword Picture Gallery during an Up Late event.



It was a fantastic opportunity for the group to work with a nationally recognised artist. Participants enjoyed seeing their artwork exhibited amongst the Old Masters and having their work exhibited in one of the galleries gave them a real sense of pride.

I've never really been interested in art. I don't come to galleries and I can't paint. But I've been very taken with this painting, thank you very much for sharing it with us. This plastic portrait is wonderful and very clever.

Celia

Vision Plus, April 2017



Living
Paintings

BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED

Tactile Workshops

We worked with Living Paintings to commission a 3D tactile painting of the portrait, with accompanying script, to use with our blind and partially sighted visitors. We received high quality 'thermoforms' and delivered two artist-led workshops for 20 members of our local Vision Plus. Participants learnt the history of the portrait as well as exploring the features in the painting. The group also enjoyed creating their own clay face, inspired by their experience with the thermoforms.

The Vision Plus group thoroughly enjoyed the Thermoform experience. It was an amazing opportunity for everyone to experience a portrait through touch and description. The room is a great space, it has great facilities and is very light. An interesting and different workshop. We were encouraged to participate which helped a great deal. Great interaction from staff which was much appreciated.

Karen Weston Vision Plus, April 2017



...I would like to thank you and your team for all your efforts for bringing art to life.

Karen Weston
Vision Plus, March 2017



It was interesting - first knowing more of the painting and the painter and also various points of the painting. Then trying out a picture with different materials. Seeing what the others were making was amazing especially those with special needs. At the end we showed our finished (or partially finished) work around—thus feeling happy and proud!

Geraldine Dunlop

Workshop participant DeafPlus, March 2017

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Creative Collage



Assisted by a BSL interpreter we delivered a Creative Collage workshop with 11 members of the Bath Deaf Plus art group. The group enjoyed visiting the painting in the gallery, followed by a hands-on collage workshop with mixed media artist Mary Caron-Courtney. With so many vibrant personalities there was plenty of laughter with some fantastic artistic responses to the portrait.



It was really fascinating and stimulating. Both the speakers were enthusiastic and knowledgeable. I really enjoyed making my own coat of arms and the reminiscence section too.

Margaret Youngs
Age UK, June 2017

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND CARE HOMES

Reminiscence workshops

A training session was delivered at the Museum by 'Alive' for our Learning team, freelance arts practitioners and volunteers. Alive is one of the leading practitioners in the UK of meaningful activity for older people in care.

Following the training we were able to plan and deliver our own workshops inspired by the subject of school. **We used reproductions** of the painting and a school satchel, filled with playground memorabilia from the 1950s and '60s, to initiate conversation and evoke memories of school days. The satchel contained pieces of uniform, playground games, school photographs and stationery. Group members and care home residents then took part in a creative activity, designing their own school badge on a cotton handkerchief using stencils, fabric pens and pastels. **We delivered 10 workshops with 105 people in a variety of care homes and community groups in B&NES.**



With special thanks to:

- ◇ Our freelance arts practitioners: Hannah Carding, Mary Caron-Courtney, Caroline Davies, Lucia Harley, Esther Lincoln, Jo Lovell, Lisa Metcalfe, Paula Tew and Chrissie Weltike
- ◇ The Museum volunteers
- ◇ Our School Leavers' Project Artists: Sam Church, Clare Day, Penny Leaver Green, Elise Menghini, Richard Twose and Karen Wallis
- ◇ All visitors and workshop participants that we have engaged with throughout the project
- ◇ Local Artists Rob Lunn and Sally Muir
- ◇ Participating local primary and secondary schools
- ◇ Desmond Shawe-Taylor, Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures
- ◇ Members of the Gardener's Lodge Art Group
- ◇ Age UK, Gracewell of Bath, Oakfield Care Home
- ◇ Deaf Plus and Vision Plus
- ◇ Living Paintings
- ◇ Gill Roberts and Alive

Supported by
The Medlock Charitable Trust

