

Today's springboard for awe inspiring creativity comes from Sir Thomas Lawrence, local(ish) boy who became one of the giants of the Georgian art world.

This lovely sketch of 19 year old Eton graduate Arthur Atherley is one of the jewels in the Holburne's collection - painted when Lawrence was only 22 himself! These two young men were both on the brink of a rosy adult life; Atherley through being a member of the aristocracy (who would go on to become a banker and MP), and Lawrence through raw talent (a largely self taught prodigy from a much humbler background).

Try to imagine the dynamic between between sitter and painter.

Then forget all about it, because the picture we're interested in today is THIS ONE...

This picture, *'The Private Sitting Room of Sir Thomas Lawrence'* shows the artist at the other end of his glittering career.

It raises a few questions - Number One being, *'Who has a private sitting room like that???'* Doesn't look very cosy. And if it's *private*, why show it to everyone in a print?

Could it be the Georgian equivalent of a Hello! magazine article where celebs show off their pads? You may wonder why they do that too, and the answer is to advertise!



The Private Sitting Room of Sir Thos. Lawrence, aquatint, image - The Trustees of the British Museum.

By looking at this picture you can see that Lawrence is a man of culture and taste (*look at all those statues!*), who's done very well for himself (*ditto!*).

So you could be sure that if you went to him for a portrait you'd be in safe hands and the result would be 'reassuringly expensive'.*

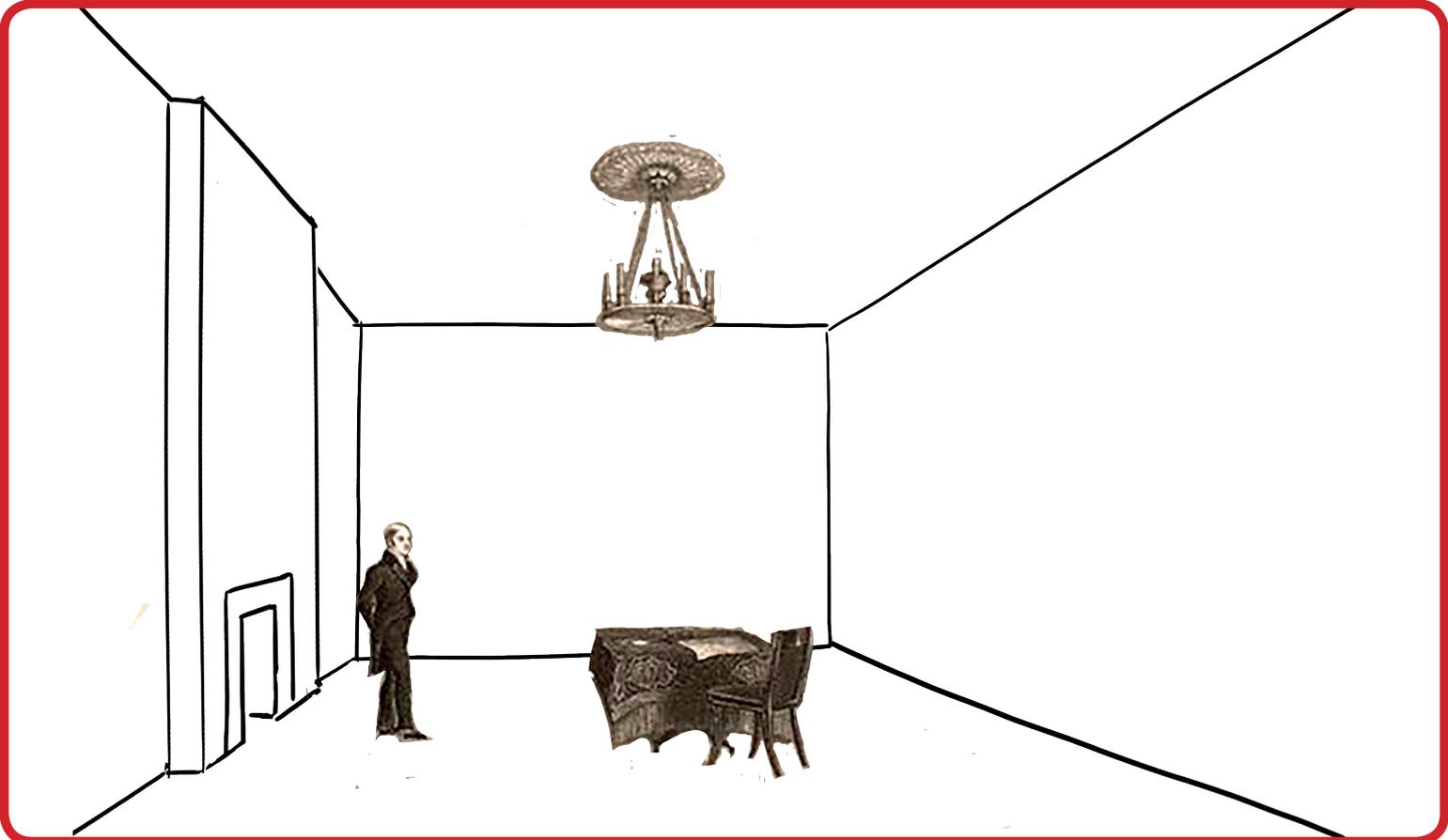
*This is all true to a point - he was massively successful. But he was also dreadful for keeping clients waiting for their paintings, probably because he took on so many jobs to keep him in statues. This despite the fact the other side of that wall there's a team of assistants doing his colouring for him!

"This is all great" we hear you cry, "but WHAT'S TODAY'S PROJECT?" Read on...

YOUR MISSION FOR TODAY

Sir Thomas Lawrence has been advised by an interior designer mate (who is at least 100 years ahead of his time) that he should 'go minimalist'. It seemed like such a good idea, but now the room feels a bit bare and echoey.

Your brief is to fill it with exciting *stuff* again. You can use drawing, collage, digital gubbins if you're that way inclined...what ever you like.



INSPIRATION STATION

Hmmm what to do for Lawrence - so cultured, such a collector? Well looking at the Holburne is a start - did you know the museum was opened to house another collection (go on...have a guess what the collector's name was). It's an amazing and quite random collection...so random is fine! You can see the Holburne's collection here: <https://www.holburne.org/the-collection/>

Here is a photo that might kick something off for you - in 2011 the Holburne held an exhibition of Sir Peter Blake's artwork called 'A Museum to Myself'...



Sir Peter Blake is famous as one of the trailblazers of the Pop Art movement, and his art is closely linked with his passion for collecting and for popular culture.



Cover for Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band by The Beatles, Sir Peter Blake



Circus, Sir Peter Blake

There is also something slightly absurd about the picture of Lawrence dwarfed by all those sculptures.

You may get some inspiration from Terry Gilliam's Monty Python animations.

Do you collect anything? You are welcome to use Lawrence's room as a museum to *yourself* (I've asked him, he says its fine).

Just like Blake you can take images from magazines to give a snapshot of 21st Century pop culture.
Or you can just make the room look jazzy - make people think "I want to buy a painting from that guy"!

There's a bigger version of Lawrence's room on the back page.

Enjoy!



Share a photo of what you make!
Send to e.blythe@holburne.org
Instagram
[changing_lives_through_art](https://www.instagram.com/changing_lives_through_art) 



