

## THE COURTAULD GALLERY

### One of the finest small museums in the world

The Courtauld Gallery has one of the most important and best-loved collections of European paintings and drawings in Britain, displayed in the elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century setting of Somerset House in Central London. The Courtauld's collection ranges from the Renaissance to the 20<sup>th</sup> century and include a world-famous group of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings with masterpieces by Manet, Monet, Cézanne, Van Gogh and Gauguin, amongst others.

The Courtauld also offers an exciting and critically-acclaimed programme of temporary exhibitions on subjects reflecting the scope and range of the permanent collection.

### Manet to Van Gogh: The Impressionists and Post-Impressionists

The Courtauld Gallery is best known for its outstanding collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, drawings and prints. Manet's iconic *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*, 1881-82, draws visitors from around the world and forms the centrepiece of a dazzling array of masterpieces by every major artist of the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist movements. Renoir's celebrated *La Loge* is displayed alongside great works by Monet, Degas and other members of the Impressionist circle. The innovations of the Post-Impressionists are powerfully expressed in major canvases by Gauguin, Seurat and Van Gogh, including the latter's famous *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear*, 1889. The Courtauld also holds the largest collection of Cézanne's paintings, watercolours and drawings in Britain, spanning the artist's career and including a number of his most important works such as *Montagne Sainte-Victoire*, c.1887, and *The Card Players*, c.1892-95.

### Medieval and Renaissance Treasures

The Courtauld's earliest collections include a fine group of exquisitely carved medieval ivories and a glittering array of Italian 14<sup>th</sup>-century gold-ground paintings. Outstanding amongst these treasures is the *Crucifixion with Saints*, 1348, a multi-panelled altarpiece by Bernardo Daddi; a series of delicate panels by Fra Angelico and the Master of Flémalle's *Entombment Triptych*, c.1420, one of the outstanding works of early Netherlandish painting. Among the many important later works are Botticelli's large altarpiece depicting the *Trinity*, c.1491-94; the only complete surviving pair of Renaissance wedding chests (cassoni); Lucas Cranach's much-loved *Adam and Eve*, 1526; and two rare paintings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder.

### Rubens and the Baroque

The Courtauld has one of the most important collections of paintings and drawings by Peter Paul Rubens, ranging from his portrait of *The Family of Jan Brueghel the Elder*, c.1613-15, to the magisterial late *Landscape by Moonlight*, c.1635-40. Among the 18<sup>th</sup>-century holdings are a superb group of oil sketches by Tiepolo, one of the greatest and most inventive painters of the period, as well as Goya's portrait of the Spanish statesman Francisco de Saavedra and Gainsborough's tender image of his wife, probably painted on her fiftieth birthday.

## Into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

The Courtauld has an important collection of French Fauve and German Expressionist paintings, which are on long-term loan to the Gallery. Works by Matisse, Derain and Vlaminck offer a powerful account of the radical breakthrough made by these artists in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, characterised by their fearless use of simplified forms and intense colours which earned them the name *Fauves*, or 'wild beasts'. The displays of German painting include a rich group of works by Kandinsky as well as boldly expressive paintings by Jawlensky, Kirchner, Heckel and Pechstein.

Changing displays highlight The Courtauld's collection of 20<sup>th</sup> century British art which includes one of the most important holdings of work by the Bloomsbury Group with paintings and drawings by Roger Fry, Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant. The British collections extend throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from Walter Sickert to Ben Nicholson, Graham Sutherland and on to Anthony Caro and Richard Long.

## Drawings and Prints

The Courtauld Gallery houses an internationally renowned collection of 7,000 drawings and 20,000 prints. The drawings and watercolours cover all the major schools of Western art and include outstanding works by Dürer, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Turner, Cézanne and many others. In addition to being available to view by appointment in The Courtauld's Drawings and Prints Study Room, a rotating selection of works is displayed in a dedicated room in The Courtauld Gallery. These displays are often themed to complement the Gallery's exhibition programme.

## Gallery Events

A variety of Gallery events, including regular talks and tours, late night openings, workshops, art history courses, study days, summer school and study trips, explore the wealth of The Courtauld Gallery's collection and offer many ways to engage with works of art by some of the most important artists in the world. In addition, The Courtauld runs an exciting programme of arts education for schools, colleges and community groups.

The Courtauld Gallery is an integral part of The Courtauld Institute of Art, one of the world's leading centres for the study of the history of art and conservation. Information about the Gallery's collection, including a virtual tour, films and podcasts, can be viewed on The Courtauld's website. The publication, *The Courtauld Masterpieces*, illustrates a selection of over 60 major works from the collection and provides an excellent introduction to the history of the Gallery.

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<b>Opening hours:</b>	Daily 10 am to 6 pm, last admission 5.30 pm
<b>Admission:</b>	Adult: £5.00, concessions: £4.00 Free: Mondays 10 am to 2 pm (except public holidays); at all times for under 18s, fulltime UK students, registered unwaged and Friends
<b>Location:</b>	The Courtauld Gallery, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN
<b>Information:</b>	<a href="http://www.courtauld.ac.uk">www.courtauld.ac.uk</a> . Tel. +44 (0)20 7848 2526. E-mail: <a href="mailto:gallerinfo@courtauld.ac.uk">gallerinfo@courtauld.ac.uk</a> .
<b>How to get there:</b>	Mainline trains to Charing Cross, Waterloo or Blackfriars; underground stations Temple (District and Circle lines), Covent Garden (Piccadilly line) and Charing Cross (Northern, Bakerloo and Jubilee lines); buses 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 23, 77a, 91 and 176 to Strand.
<b>Access:</b>	The Gallery is wheelchair accessible, with level access to most areas and a lift to all floors. Assisted ramp access is available for Room 1. 24 hour access information line +44 (20) 7845 4671
<b>Shop:</b>	The Courtauld Gallery Shop offers exhibition catalogues and a variety of merchandise inspired by the temporary exhibitions and the permanent collection. <a href="http://www.courtauldshop.com">www.courtauldshop.com</a> Tel. +44 (0)20 7848 2579, <a href="mailto:shop@sctenterprises.com">shop@sctenterprises.com</a>
<b>Café:</b>	The Courtauld Gallery Café is open daily from 10 am to 5.30 pm serving cream teas, home-made cakes, light meals and drinks.

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For further information and images, please contact:

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