

NPG Trip

The National Portrait Gallery (NPG), in the centre of London (just off Trafalgar Square), holds the most extensive collection of portraits in the world: over 200,000 portraits from the 16th Century to the present day in a wide range of different media. And, rather amazingly, all of the artworks in its permanent collection belong to the citizens of the UK.

Every year since 1990, the NPG has run the BP Portrait Award. It's a competition open to artists from anywhere in the world. To enter, you must submit a single portrait. The latest show received more than 2,500 entries, from which 53 paintings were selected to make up the 2017 exhibition.

In September we took 28 of our Year 10 students to see the BP Show, and explore some of the NPG's permanent collection. It was an invaluable opportunity to see new work by some of the best young, and already established, portrait painters in the world.



Honest Thomas by Alan Coulson