



## News release

Tuesday 25 March 2025

---

## The National Portrait Gallery announces major acquisitions made through its new contemporary art fund, supported by the Bukhman Foundation

*Collecting the Now* is a new fund created to support the Gallery's acquisition of major contemporary artworks over the next three years, supported by a million pound gift from the Bukhman Foundation.

Announced today, the fund has been used to acquire a rare self-portrait by Sonia Boyce and an adorned portrait bust of Edward VII by Hew Locke.

The Bukhman Foundation's gift will support the acquisition of contemporary art over the next three years, prioritising the collection of portraits by ground-breaking artists.



L-R: *From Someone Else's Fear Fantasy (A Case Of Mistaken Identity? Well This Is No Bed Of Roses) To Metamorphosis* by Sonia Boyce, 1987 © Sonia Boyce. All Rights Reserved, DACS 2025. Photograph by Tim Bowditch. Purchased with kind support from the Bukhman Foundation as part of *Collecting the Now*, formerly in the collection of British artist Sutapa Biswas; *Souvenir 17 (Albert Edward, Prince of Wales)* by Hew Locke, 2024, Mixed media on antique Parian ware. Image courtesy the Artist, Hales London and New York © Hew Locke. All Rights Reserved, DACS 2025. Purchased with kind support from the Bukhman Foundation as part of *Collecting the Now*.

The National Portrait Gallery has launched a new fund to support its acquisition of contemporary artworks. Generously supported by the Bukhman Foundation, the fund – titled *Collecting the Now* – will enable the NPG to be responsive and bring major contemporary acquisitions into its Collection over the next three years. The first of these are portraits by two of Britain's leading artists, Dame Sonia Boyce OBE and Hew Locke OBE.



*From Someone Else's Fear Fantasy (A Case Of Mistaken Identity? Well This Is No Bed Of Roses) To Metamorphosis* (1987) by Sonia Boyce and *Souvenir 17 (Albert Edward, Prince of Wales)* (2024) by Hew Locke are the first works by both artists to enter the National Portrait Gallery's Collection, having previously been represented only as sitters. The works were recently purchased as part of *Collecting the Now* thanks to a one million pound gift from the Bukhman Foundation, donated to ensure that the NPG are able to make major contemporary acquisitions over the next three years, bringing new artists and sitters into the Collection. *Souvenir 17 (Albert Edward, Prince of Wales)* by Hew Locke will be displayed in our Empire and Resistance gallery (Room 23) from today, 25 March 2025.

*From Someone Else's Fear Fantasy (A Case Of Mistaken Identity? Well This Is No Bed Of Roses) To Metamorphosis* (1987) by Sonia Boyce is mixed media work that examines stereotypes and selfhood. Featuring four photo-booth self-portraits of the artist juxtaposed with cut-outs of black stereotypes, the work addresses issues of race, ethnicity and contemporary urban experience. As one of the leading figures in the 1980s Black British Art movement, Boyce's work is of great significance in telling the story of that social and artistic moment in British history.

Sonia Boyce (1962–) lives and works in London. Early in her career, her work responded to the absence of empowering representations of black women in the media. Boyce therefore started making self-portraits, because in her own words 'I needed to see myself.' The act of looking at oneself, but also being seen, played a powerful role in the genesis of her early engagement with self-portraiture. Having only produced a small number of self-portraits, *From Someone Else's Fear Fantasy (A Case Of Mistaken Identity? Well This Is No Bed Of Roses) To Metamorphosis* is a rare and seminal work, acquired from the collection of British artist Sutapa Biswas.

*Souvenir 17 (Albert Edward, Prince of Wales)* by Hew Locke depicts Albert Edward, the second child and eldest son of Queen Victoria, who would become King Edward VII. The work forms part of Locke's *Souvenir* series, which sees the artist transform antique Parian ware busts portraying members of the British royal family. Once displayed in middle-class homes during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, these busts are ornamented with regalia by Locke, conflating Parian whiteness with colourful carnival aesthetics.

Born in Edinburgh, Hew Locke (1959–) moved to Guyana just before the country's independence in 1966. He spent his formative years there, before returning to the UK to complete an MA in sculpture at the Royal College of Art. Combining classical forms of portraiture with ritual acts of adornment, the artist's reflections on empire in his *Souvenir* series result in a layering of material history that reveals how objects can be markers of power, authority, and nationhood and also subject to constant reinterpretation. The newly acquired work holds an important place in the oeuvre of contemporary British portraiture and its historic legacies.

*"From Someone Else's Fear Fantasy is a photomontage that feels like a dream sequence or storyboard. Using the format of the photo booth to capture her/my self-portrait, is a nod to the Surrealists and an artist like Susan Hiller. Racist imagery from popular film and comic-book illustrations are juxtaposed with floral patterns and scenes from 'nature' to create a densely layered picture."*

Sonia Boyce  
Artist

*"Souvenir 17 is a portrait of a British king-in-waiting, weighed down by the burden of history, which I hope can help us to think more about our long and complex relationships to history and nationhood. It makes sense for the work to be here at the National Portrait Gallery, having a conversation with the 19th-century portraits around it. It's almost as if it's come home."*

Hew Locke  
Artist

*"I have always felt that art has the power to inspire us all, but also challenge and refine our understanding of our common histories. We are honoured to be supporting the National Portrait Gallery in expanding its contemporary art collection, ensuring that significant figures from both history and our world today are seen and remembered by thousands. I am also particularly happy that Collecting the Now will celebrate visionary artists like Sonia Boyce and Hew Locke, ensuring that the true depth and diversity of our time is represented and reflected."*

Anastasia Bukhman  
Co-founder, Bukhman Foundation

*"I am delighted to have worked with the Bukhman Foundation to create this dedicated fund for the acquisition of contemporary works to our Collection. The Foundation's important gift will support our continued development of the Collection, increasing the visibility and representation of contemporary artists at the National Portrait Gallery."*

Dr. Flavia Frigeri  
Incoming Curatorial and Collections Director, National Portrait Gallery



*"This generous gift from the Bukhman Foundation will ensure that the National Portrait Gallery is able to bring some of the most relevant and exciting contemporary portraits into our Collection. We are so grateful to the Bukhman family for sharing our vision and ensuring that these works are in the Gallery for future generations to experience and enjoy."*

Victoria Siddall  
Director, National Portrait Gallery

**ENDS**

---

**For further press information, please contact:** Poppy Andrews, Head of Communications, National Portrait Gallery, [pandrews@npg.org.uk](mailto:pandrews@npg.org.uk)

**Notes to editors**

**National Portrait Gallery**

Founded in 1856, the National Portrait Gallery tells the story of Britain through portraits, using art to bring history to life and explore living today. From global icons, to unsung heroes, our Collection is filled with the stories that have shaped, and continue to shape a nation. We celebrate the power of portraiture and offer encounters with some of the world's greatest and most exciting new artists, promoting engagement with portraiture in all media to a wide-ranging public by conserving, growing and sharing the world's largest collection of portraits.

**Bukhman Foundation**

The Bukhman Foundation was established by Anastasia and Igor Bukhman to support breakthroughs in medical research for Type 1 Diabetes, as well as celebrate the arts and culture, and access to education. The foundation's work within arts and culture is centred on broadening and improving access to creativity and arts education through the support of pioneering institutions, complex and ambitious artistic projects, and ground-breaking young and emerging artists.

[www.bukhmanfoundation.org](http://www.bukhmanfoundation.org)

---

**DACS Guidance for Use:**

Press use is moderate use of artworks which would be considered to be fair dealing with an artwork (other than a photograph) to report a current event, or fair dealing with an artwork for the purpose of criticism or review, as specified in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 c. 48 Section 30 Subsections (1) - (3). Uses of artworks which comply with the provisions in this section would therefore fall under an exception and do not need to be licensed for the limited specified uses. All other uses should be licensed. Due to the territorial nature of copyright law, prior authorisation may need to be sought for any press uses outside of the UK.

In addition, please ensure that all artworks are shown in full, with no cropping, overprinting or manipulation. Sufficient acknowledgement identifying the artwork and copyright holder is also required and DACS can provide you with the correct copyright by-line (contact details below).

Non-press use of artworks, highly commercial uses which are not considered to be 'fair dealing' or press uses where the above criteria do not apply (including, but not limited to, covers and feature articles; your own printed or online publicity materials; etc) must be licensed before use by the Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS) as representative of the copyright holder. Further information can be obtained on the DACS website or by contacting the DACS Licensing team on +44 (0)207 780 7550 / [licensing@dacs.org.uk](mailto:licensing@dacs.org.uk).