

CREATIVE CAREERS

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Writers of Influence - Exhibition Concept Developed by Museums Sheffield

Aims

- To surprise and intrigue our audience
- To encourage our audience to investigate writers they may not otherwise have been interested in
- To bring the paintings to life by introducing the personal perspective
- To present a thought-provoking cross-chronological exhibition

Overview

Using the National Portrait Gallery's significant portrait of Shakespeare (NPG 1) as a starting point, this exhibition aims to introduce a fresh perspective to some much loved works and literary figures from the NPG collection. The over arching theme of the show will be influence which will be explored in two ways. The first will focus upon the influence of people, considering how different writers have affected each other's work; the second will look at societal influence and the ways in which external events can affect writers.

The show will include writers, playwrights, authors, poets and lyricists from the 15th century through to the present day and will include a range of media. The exhibition will comprise small groupings of work which will be cross-chronological. Through careful research we will aim to make surprising and interesting connections between writers in the hope that we will intrigue the viewer. By presenting literary figures in a different context, we would like to encourage our audience towards writers they may not have considered before.

The works have been selected according to the following criteria:

- the significance of the sitter
- the medium, style or technique
- the relevance to young people

The list of works has been put together by young people from the partner institutions and includes writers who they feel are significant to themselves and their lives. As the key audience for the exhibition is 14-19 year olds, we feel that examining influence would be a good way of engaging young people, encouraging them to think about all the influences that have played a part in making them who they are. We have been working with a small group of young people to develop the proposal and content for this exhibition. They will become key members of the exhibition project team at Museums Sheffield and will co-curate the show, imputing into the interpretation, marketing and learning around the exhibition.

Target audiences

Young people specifically 14-19 year olds

Art / literature lovers

Enthusiasts

Library users

Schools

Students