

Volunteer Role Description

Role title:	People's Portraits Volunteer Guide
Where:	People's Portraits Exhibition, Girton College
When:	Work at pre-arranged times for visiting groups
Expected commitment:	This is flexible and depends on the volunteer's availability and the level of interest from visiting groups. Initially the volunteer will need to research and write their personalised tour, thereafter the commitment should be <i>circa</i> 1-2 hours per term.
Duration:	1 academic year in 1 st instance
Accountable to:	People's Portraits Committee / Curator (Pictures)

Role summary

To give guided tours of the People's Portraits exhibition to interested groups.

The People's Portraits was an exhibition mounted by the Royal Society of Portrait Painters in 2000. The idea was to represent ordinary people from all walks of life and thereby offer a picture of the United Kingdom as it moved from the 20th century into the 21st. The resulting collection is rich in the diversity of its subjects. The artists are all members of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters. This exciting and original collection has been housed at Girton College since 2002.

Main duties and responsibilities

1. Research and write a guided tour to the exhibition, with input from the People's Portrait Committee and the Curator (Pictures).
 - a. An initial session with the Curator (Pictures) will familiarise you with the exhibition - its history, its remit and the portraits featured.
 - b. We will then ask you to prepare your personalized tour. This should include an introduction to the exhibition as a whole and then focus on 2 or 3 portraits that particularly appeal to you. You will need to undertake some background research into the artists who painted your chosen portraits. The idea is to encourage visitors to see the portraits with new eyes and foster enthusiasm for the exhibition.
 - c. You will practice and modify your tour as required – we will support you to do this by arranging for you to give your tour to members of the People's Portraits Committee and your fellow volunteers.
2. Once your tour is finalised, you will give it to pre-arranged groups. These groups may be internal College members, alumni or external visitors.

Requirements

Willingness/availability to undertake training as appropriate for role
An interest in and enthusiasm for the People's Portraits exhibition
Ability to work unsupervised or as part of a small team
Ability to present factually correct information in an engaging manner
Reliability and commitment to turn up for pre-arranged tours
Excellent communication skills for a variety of audiences
Good English skills

Skills you will develop

- Enhance your research skills and your knowledge of modern portraiture
- Improve your ability to engage and maintain the interest of a mixed group of listeners
- Improve your confidence in presenting to groups and responding to questions
- Increase your awareness of the impact of artwork in modern life

Contact details

curator@girton.cam.ac.uk