



JOSHUA REYNOLDS
WALLACE COLLECTION EXHIBITION

THURSDAY 4 JUNE

DR HAYLEY FLYNN & NICHOLAS FRIEND

Perhaps because he was the original Academician, Joshua Reynolds is often seen as a dry, dusty, passionless painter, less spontaneous and emotional than his contemporary rival Gainsborough. But just a glance at the best of his works, particularly at the portraits of his friends, shows an artist not only in total empathy with his sitters, whether, men, women or children, but an artist capable of astounding ingenuity of poses and setting. Whether inspired by Classical sculpture, by Titian OR Rembrandt, Reynolds came up with totally new solutions for the problems presented by 18c English portraiture. 'Damn the man, how various he is! said Gainsborough'. Reynolds is rarely dull, and often thrilling. As Jonathan Jones has written, Reynolds is '*the portraitist of the Enlightenment, a daring artist who captured a daring age*'. His daring extended not only to a complete reinvention of the relationship between sitter and pose, but also to fascinating experiments with colour pigment and medium. These experiments were not always successful: sometimes his faces lost colour because he was trying to mix incompatible pigments, but the willingness to experiment, whether with pigment or composition, shows Reynolds, in his art, as an English Leonardo. Nicholas Friend explores Reynolds' life and work, before Dr Hayley Flynn, Curator at the Wallace Collection, takes us round the Exhibition 'Joshua Reynolds: Experiments in Paint'.

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| MEET | 10.30 am coffee for 11 am lecture at Pushkin House |
| ENDS | 4 pm Wallace Collection |
| COST | £85 members, £95 non-members, including coffee, lunch with wine, and private curatorial tour |