

The Courtauld

Press Release CONFIDENTIAL

*** EMBARGOED UNTIL 10AM THURSDAY 1 JULY 2021***

THE COURTAULD TO STAGE FIRST EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO VAN GOGH'S SELF-PORTRAITS ACROSS HIS CAREER



Images from left to right: *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear*, 1889, The Courtauld, London (Samuel Courtauld Trust) © The Courtauld
Self-Portrait with Dark Felt Hat, 1886-87, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Vincent van Gogh Foundation)
Self-Portrait with Straw Hat, 1887, The Detroit Institute of Arts / Bridgeman Images
Self-Portrait, 1887, The Art Institute of Chicago. Creative Commons Zero (CC0)
Self-Portrait as a Painter, 1888, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Vincent van Gogh Foundation)
Self-Portrait with Grey Felt Hat, 1887, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

To download high-resolution images: <https://bit.ly/3h4xtYS>

The first ever exhibition devoted to Vincent van Gogh's self-portraits across his entire career will take place at The Courtauld Gallery from 3 February – 8 May 2022.

Van Gogh Self-Portraits takes as its springboard Van Gogh's iconic *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear*, one of the most celebrated works in The Courtauld collection, and will bring together around half of the self-portraits Van Gogh created during his short years as a painter – an exciting opportunity, given that many of these works are rarely lent.

This will be the first time that the full span of Van Gogh's self-portraiture has been explored in an exhibition. An outstanding selection of more than 15 self-portraits will be brought together to trace the evolution of Van Gogh's self representation, from his early *Self-Portrait with a Dark Felt Hat*, created in 1886 during his formative period in Paris, to *Self-Portrait with a Palette*, painted at the asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence in September 1889, one of his last self-portraits before his death in 1890.

The exhibition will be presented in The Courtauld's new Denise Coates Exhibition Galleries and will be the first in the new Morgan Stanley Series of high-profile temporary exhibitions at The Courtauld. It will showcase *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* alongside masterpieces from major international collections, including the Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; the Art Institute of Chicago; the Detroit Institute of Arts; the National Gallery of Art, Washington DC; the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, and the National Gallery, London. Several works in the exhibition were last together in Van Gogh's studio and have never been reunited, until now.

The brand new Denise Coates Exhibition Galleries, created out of former office, conservation and circulation spaces, will enable The Courtauld to expand its acclaimed programme of international loan exhibitions. Situated on the top floor of Somerset House, this suite of two galleries, which will be unveiled when The Courtauld reopens in November 2021, is part of a major refurbishment project to revitalise and open up the Gallery, and to create state-of-the-art facilities, providing a transformed home for its internationally-renowned art collection.

Professor Deborah Swallow, Märit Rausing Director of The Courtauld, said: "As custodian of one of Van Gogh's most important self-portraits, the opportunity to bring its peers together in one show is a tremendously exciting one for The Courtauld. The new Denise Coates Exhibition Galleries will be stunning spaces for visitors to enjoy these works, and we are particularly grateful to Denise Coates for the generous support, which has enabled their creation. We would also like to thank Morgan Stanley, for their leadership and support of 'The Morgan Stanley Series', presenting The Courtauld's acclaimed temporary exhibitions from 2022, and other lead donors to the Van Gogh exhibition, including Kenneth C. Griffin, and to the Huo Family Foundation for their additional support."

Denise Coates CBE said: "I feel sure that the newly renovated Courtauld galleries will give all visitors, both in person and online, a world-class opportunity to experience their own connections to visual art. I have found great fulfilment from my own exposure to the visual arts and I am pleased to be able to support that journey for others with The Courtauld."

Van Gogh was a prolific practitioner of self-portraiture. His appearance is instantly recognisable, with his defined features, bright red hair and piercing gaze. Curated by Dr Karen Serres, Curator of Paintings at The Courtauld, *Van Gogh Self-Portraits* will explore the myriad ways Van Gogh approached one of his most enduring subjects: as an outlet for experimenting with new styles, a practical way of securing an available model, a critical tool for psychological introspection, and a means of constructing his own identity and presenting himself to the outside world.

The myth of Van Gogh today is linked as much to his extraordinary life as it is to his stunning paintings. This exhibition will allow both aspects to be explored. It is an opportunity and exhibition never to be repeated as *Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear* will be permanently on display at The Courtauld Gallery when it reopens and is unlikely to be lent elsewhere for many years to come.

A fully illustrated catalogue, featuring essays by international collaborators and presenting new research, as well as detailed entries on each of the works on display, will be published to coincide with the exhibition.

The Morgan Stanley Series launches with three major temporary exhibitions at The Courtauld Gallery, starting with *Van Gogh Self-Portraits*. Further exhibitions will be announced later in 2021.

Franck Petitgas, Head of International at Morgan Stanley, said: “We are delighted to partner with The Courtauld on The Morgan Stanley Series, which will showcase some of the Gallery’s major exhibitions from 2022. We look forward to *Van Gogh Self-Portraits* and supporting The Courtauld as it reopens its doors to its internationally renowned collection, right in the heart of London.”

The transformation of The Courtauld has been supported by £11 million from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and a generous donation of £10 million from philanthropists Sir Leonard and Lady Blavatnik, and the Blavatnik Family Foundation. Additional major support has been provided by AKO Foundation, the Deborah Loeb Brice Foundation, The John Browne Charitable Trust, Denise Coates CBE, Crankstart, The Garcia Family Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, Dr Martin and Susanne Halusa, The Linbury Trust, LVMH Moët Hennessy - Louis Vuitton and Oak Foundation. The Courtauld is most grateful to these visionary supporters, alongside others who are making this project and its related activities possible. The collection cared for by The Courtauld Gallery belongs to the Samuel Courtauld Trust.

MEDIA CONTACTS

The Courtauld

www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/press
media@courtauld.ac.uk

Bolton & Quinn

Erica Bolton | erica@boltonquinn.com | +44 (0)20 7221 5000
Dennis Chang | dennis@boltonquinn.com | +44 (0)20 7221 5000

THE COURTAULD

Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 0RN
www.courtauld.ac.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram [@Courtauld](#)
Twitter [@TheCourtauld](#)
YouTube [CourtauldInstitute](#)
Facebook [@TheCourtauld](#)
[#TheCourtauld](#)
[#courtauldconnects](#)

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Courtauld

About The Courtauld

The Courtauld works to advance how we see and understand the visual arts, as an internationally-renowned centre for the teaching, research of art history and a major public gallery. Founded by collectors and philanthropists in 1932, the organisation has been at the forefront of the study of art ever since, through advanced research and conservation practice, innovative teaching, the renowned collection and inspiring exhibitions of its gallery, and engaging and accessible activities, education and events.

The Courtauld cares for one of the greatest art collections in the UK, presenting these works to the public at The Courtauld Gallery in central London, as well as through loans and partnerships. The Gallery is most famous for its iconic Impressionist and Post-Impressionist masterpieces – such as Van Gogh's *Self Portrait with Bandaged Ear* and Manet's *A Bar at the Folies-Bergère*. It showcases these alongside an internationally renowned collection of works from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance through to the present day.

Academically, The Courtauld faculty is the largest community of art historians and conservators in the UK, teaching and carrying out research on subjects from creativity in late Antiquity to contemporary digital artforms - with an increasingly global focus. An independent college of the University of London, The Courtauld offers a range of degree programmes from BA to PhD in the History of Art, curating and the conservation of easel and wall paintings. Its alumni are leaders and innovators in the arts, culture and business worlds, helping to shape the global agenda for the arts and creative industries.

Founded on the belief that everyone should have the opportunity to engage with art, The Courtauld works to increase understanding of the role played by art throughout history, in all societies and across all geographies – as well as being a champion for the importance of art in the present day. This could be through exhibitions offering a chance to look closely at world-famous works; events bringing art history research to new audiences; accessible and expert short courses; digital engagement, innovative school, family and community programmes; or taking a formal qualification. The Courtauld's ambition is to transform access to art history education, by extending the horizons of what this is, and ensuring as many people as possible can benefit from the tools to better understand the visual world around us.

The Courtauld is currently undertaking an ambitious transformation project that will make it accessible to even more people. The Courtauld's home in historic Somerset House – London's working arts centre - is closed for a major programme of renovation. The Courtauld's students and academic staff are based near King's Cross. The Gallery is scheduled to reopen in November 2021.

The Courtauld is an exempt charity and relies on generous philanthropic support to achieve its mission of advancing the understanding of the visual arts of the past and present across the world, through advanced research, innovative teaching, inspiring exhibitions, programmes and collections.

The collection cared for by the Courtauld Gallery is owned by the Samuel Courtauld Trust, which has been a partner in the Courtauld Connects project

About Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley is a leading global financial services firm providing investment banking, securities, wealth management and investment management services. With offices in more than 41 countries, the Firm's employees serve clients worldwide including corporations, governments, institutions and individuals. For more information about Morgan Stanley, please visit www.morganstanley.com

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we **Inspire, lead** and **resource** the UK's heritage to create **positive and lasting change** for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund