

THE  
NATIONAL  
GALLERY

NATIONAL  
TOURING  
EXHIBITIONS





# INTRODUCTION

The National Gallery is a **Gallery for the Nation**, and that is why we are launching this new and exciting opportunity to share the nation's collection as widely as possible across the United Kingdom.

We are making available for tour in 2022 and 2023 three critically acclaimed exhibitions that visitors to Trafalgar Square have previously hugely enjoyed – *Sin, Sensing the Unseen: Step into Gossaert's 'Adoration'* and *Dutch Flowers* – along with their accompanying Digital and Learning content.

We are now looking for a range of museums, galleries and cultural organisations across the UK who would like to partner with us on this project.

As the Nation's Gallery we are committed to supporting the arts sector post-COVID, so we are not charging a fee for these exhibitions. All we ask is that venues cover direct costs such as transport and insurance.

The National Gallery is a resource for the people of this country for learning, enjoyment and well-being, and these exhibitions are just one part of our much wider and longstanding programme of national activity that honours our commitment to sharing our paintings with as many people as possible.

We look forward to working with you.

**Gabriele Finaldi**  
Director

# SIN



Sin has permeated life since the earliest days, but until now the story of its relation to art has never been told. Bringing together works of art that span centuries, this exhibition explores the concept of sin in art in a truly unique presentation. Defined universally as a regrettable fault, offence or omission, sin is something everyone can relate to. In Christianity, it is considered a transgression against divine law and many of the world's major religions have similar concepts. This exhibition looks at theological ideas and depictions of 'sinful' everyday behaviour that blur the boundaries between religious and secular art. A concept that is universal, but at the same time highly personal, the exhibition asks you to define your own meaning of 'Sin'.

This exhibition will consist of approximately eight to ten exceptional paintings from the National Gallery's collection, including works by Lucas Cranach the Elder, Jan Steen and Jan Gossaert, as well as works on loan including Tracey Emin's *It was just a kiss*.

Available to tour from Spring 2022

Size: Approximately 50–100m<sup>2</sup>

"The National Gallery has a mesmerizing exhibition. *Sin* is ... dangerous and sweet, reckless and sophisticated."

- Visitor, *Sin*



Workshop of Marinus van Reymerswale, *Two Tax-Gatherers* (detail), probably 1540s

# SENSING THE UNSEEN: STEP INTO GOSSAERT'S 'ADORATION'



A spectacular immersive digital experience inspired by Jan Gossaert's 16th-century masterpiece *The Adoration of the Kings*, 'Sensing the Unseen' presents one of the National Gallery's most popular pictures as never before.

Visitors are led into individual 'pods' to experience an interactive version of the painting. In the pods, visitors encounter a large screen featuring a digital image of the painting which has been 'sonified' using ambient sound and music. Visitors zoom into details of the painting in an aural and visual experience that places them in the world of the painting and helps them discover and navigate previously unseen elements. As visitors view the painting, the voice of one of its depicted characters, King Balthasar, speaks to them through a specially commissioned poem by the 2019 Young People's Laureate for London, Theresa Lola. The exhibition explores approaches to both sound and interactive design and has been developed by an interdisciplinary team of Gallery experts, artists, designers, technologists and creatives working closely with audiences.

The touring exhibition package has been created to ease installation and delivery for partners whilst safeguarding the exceptionally considered and detailed display shown at the National Gallery in 2021. The package will contain a file of digital assets, up to three self-supporting digital 'pods', all audio-visual hardware and interpretation text. A full-scale, high resolution 3D colour replica of Jan Gossaert's masterpiece *The Adoration of the Kings* will also be included.

Available to tour from Spring 2022

Size: Approximately 75-100m<sup>2</sup>

"This is a new way of looking at painting, and a new way of making exhibitions ...The result is a joy, whether you're 12, 24, 42 or 107."

- Nancy Durrant, *Evening Standard*





# DUTCH FLOWERS

This exquisite exhibition explores the development of Dutch flower painting from its beginnings in the early 17th century to its blossoming in the late 18th century. At the turn of the 17th century, Netherlandish artists such as Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder were among the first to produce paintings that exclusively depicted flowers. The sudden emergence of this genre was undoubtedly linked to the development of scientific interest in botany and horticulture. By the 1630s speculative prices for the most coveted bulbs and flowering plants had reached spectacular heights – the so-called ‘Tulipmania’. Although prices soon crashed, the Dutch enchantment with flowers endured.

The earliest flower paintings feature flat, symmetrical arrangements comprising flowers from different seasons. Over the course of the 17th century, bouquets become more relaxed, with symmetrical rhythms and a willingness to overlap even the most costly flowers to create a more natural sense of depth. By the end of the following century, flower paintings were considered largely decorative, with a lighter palette more in keeping with ‘modern’ tastes. Visitors to the exhibition will have the opportunity to examine the flower paintings in detail to appreciate the stylistic and technical characteristics of each artist.

This rich exhibition features around ten of the finest examples of Dutch flower paintings from the National Gallery’s collection including works by Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder, Rachel Ruysch and Jan van Huysum.

Available to tour from Spring 2022

Size: Approximately 50–100m<sup>2</sup>



“Blooming marvellous ... Luminous colour, extraordinary detail and potent symbolism – this perfectly formed display shows the best of a beautiful genre.”

- Ben Luke, *Evening Standard*



# PRACTICALITIES

There is no administration fee for these exhibitions. We simply ask that partners cover direct costs including transport, insurance and their own local costs.

All exhibition packages include the curation and exhibition concept by the National Gallery alongside a file of digital information and assets including interpretation text and learning resource guidance.

Due to the fragile nature of the paintings in *Sin* and *Dutch Flowers*, partners for those exhibitions will need to meet our standard conditions of loan, including environmental and security requirements. Details can be found on our website and we will be pleased to discuss these with potential partners.

[www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/the-gallery-nationwide/borrowing-from-the-national-gallery-loan-conditions-uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/the-gallery-nationwide/borrowing-from-the-national-gallery-loan-conditions-uk)





# PARTNERING WITH THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Every year, the National Gallery partners with organisations and audiences across the UK in a range of different and innovative ways. We want to ensure that everyone in Britain can engage with their national collection. Over the past three years we have partnered with a larger number of organisations of very different scales through a range of projects including our flagship *Masterpiece Tour*, contemporary Artist-in-Residence programme, *Visits* tour and *Take One Picture* programme. We are always keen to hear from potential partners and explore ways in which we can engage with you and your audiences.

If you are interested in partnering with us and would like more information about these exhibitions or opportunities to connect to our Learning programmes please contact:

[nationalpartnerships@ng-london.org.uk](mailto:nationalpartnerships@ng-london.org.uk)

We look forward to hearing from you