

HARLEY FOUNDATION

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release



Miniature portrait of Charles I with Mica Overlays. Date and artist unknown. © Harley Foundation

Historic objects tell the story of a beheaded King, on show at the Harley Foundation, Welbeck.

Marking 375 years since his execution, the Harley Foundation will show a rare miniature painting of Charles I with mica overlays, alongside a pair of black silk gloves said to have been worn by the King on the scaffold.

From 26 January until 28 July 2024, visitors can see the miniature painting and gloves in the Harley Foundation's award-winning, Nottinghamshire museum.

These objects tell the story of Charles I's trial and execution, giving context to permanent museum exhibits which include the pearl earring taken from his severed head, his gold toothpick and emerald seal.

The miniature shows Charles I at his trial, wearing a black hat and cloak. This portrait can be transformed by ten painted mica overlays – much like a modern paper doll. Visitors can see Charles surrounded by spectators at his trial, the executioner raising his severed head and finally, Charles as a martyr.

Lisa Gee, Director of the Harley Foundation, said: *"Objects like these provide a fascinating insight into the cult of Charles I. His miniature tells a bloody story and was made to be treasured and carried around, it seems ironic that a deeply unpopular King gained a new*

kind of status from his execution. It also points to the deep loyalty felt by royalists towards the King.”

The pearl earring worn by Charles I at his execution is on permanent display in the museum. It was taken from the ear of the severed head of the King and given to his daughter, the mother of King William III, who in turn gave it to the 1st Duke of Portland.

Also on show at the Harley Foundation is Charles I's gold toothpick, a silver cup used to give Charles' last communion, his emerald seal and personal collection of family miniatures.

These objects are on show in 'Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection' a major new historic art exhibition at The Harley Foundation in Nottinghamshire. Artworks in the free entry exhibition include a drawing by Michelangelo and Van Dyck's portrait of Charles II when a young boy. A highlight of the exhibition is a picture gallery stacked with Tudor and Jacobean portraits.

The Charles I miniature with overlays and silk gloves will be on show 26 January until 28 July 2024.

'Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection' is sponsored by Bonhams.

- The Charles I miniature, and silk gloves are on show at The Harley Foundation, North Nottinghamshire, 26 January – 28 July 2024.
- The exhibition is free to enter and there is a large, free car park. The Museum is open Tuesday – Sunday. Please check www.harleyfoundation.org.uk for opening times.
- The Harley Foundation is on the Welbeck estate, on the A60 south of Worksop. It is 15 minutes from both the A1 and M1.
- The miniature portrait and gloves will be shown with the 'Unseen Treasures of the Portland Collection' exhibition, which is sponsored by Bonhams.

www.harleyfoundation.org.uk

Ends

Bonhams
AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1793

Notes to editors

For further information about this news release and a high-res image pack, please contact:
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The Harley Foundation

The Harley Foundation is a charitable trust which supports the visual arts and crafts. It has created award-winning visitor attractions, a community of artist's studios, and a vibrant event and education programme on the historic Welbeck estate.

Visitor attractions include the award-winning Harley Gallery, which shows contemporary exhibitions and The Portland Collection, a museum showing the art collection created by the Dukes of Portland and their families over 400 years.

The art spaces are accompanied by the gallery shop specialising in contemporary craft from leading names and emerging makers. Visitors can also enjoy an Art Trail through the Welbeck countryside, family activities, and an events programme that includes Harley Open Studios, Makers Club and a monthly programme of talks.

Free entry. Free parking. See www.harleyfoundation.org.uk for opening hours and current exhibitions.

Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection

Unseen Treasures of The Portland Collection, at the Harley Foundation, North Nottinghamshire, offers a new, revealing look at this world-class art collection.

The Portland Collection, built up over 400 years by a single aristocratic family, is vast and varied. Exhibitions in its dedicated museum change every three years.

For this display, opening 25th March 2023, visitors will enter a museum filled to the brim with fascinating art and objects, a giant cabinet of curiosities. There will be silver and tapestry, paintings and jewels; art that has come home after a long loan to a prestigious national gallery, and stunning star items that visitors know and love – such as Michelangelo's 'Madonna of Silence' or the pearl earring worn by Charles I at his execution.

A highlight of the display is a Picture Gallery, stacked with Tudor and Jacobean portraits - many of which have never been seen publicly before.

Images:

