Timeline of Reynolds' Portraiture and Global Events

г 1743 Reynolds returned to Devon.

He began painting portraits in 1744. He established his first portrait studio at the newly established town of Plymouth Dock (now Devonport) in 1746 after the death of his father. He worked between Devon and London until 1749.

In Plymouth, Reynolds

and politician, by Lord

friendship blossomed.

Reynolds travelled with

Keppel as far as Menorca,

where he painted the first

Edgcumbe and a lifelong

was introduced to Augustus

1749

Reynolds began his apprenticeship with the Exeter-born painter Thomas Hudson in London. His sisters help fund his study. The contract was meant to be for seven years but Reynolds ended it after four. of six portraits of him.

Reynolds arrived in Rome and travelled throughout Italy. He studied and sketched historic works by Italian painters and sculptors of the Renaissance for two years before returning to Britain. Whilst he was in Rome, he suffered a severe cold which caused his partial hearing loss.

Reynolds returned from Italy accompanied by Giuseppe Marchi, who became his principal studio assistant. He and his sister Frances,

Keppel, a Royal Naval Officer - 1752

^L 1751

moved to London.

1750—

The ban on slavery in the

British colony of Georgia

in America (one of the

only colonies to have a

ban in place) was lifted.

slavery to keep the

indigo industry afloat.

British governors legalised

In this century it is estimated - 1740 over 12 million Africans were trafficked to colonies in the Americas, a third of them on British ships, to produce sugar and tobacco that grew Britain's wealth. By the end of this century, Britain led the trade of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic. Some of Reynolds' clients such as the Lascelles

profited from the trade of

enslaved African people.

г 1723

Joshua Reynolds

Devon on 16 July.

was born in Plympton,

Г 1740

The War of Austrian Succession continued until 1748. A battle over succession fought in Europe but with consequences in America, the Caribbean and India. Many of Reynolds' clients were part of Britain's involvement, such as Thomas Limeburner, who commissioned Reynolds to make his daughter's

portrait in this exhibition.

1744

George Anson began a circumnavigation of the globe on HMS Centurion. Over the next decade the ship attacked Spanish merchants in the Caribbean and the Philippines. Under Keppel's command the ship sailed to the Mediterranean and fought in the Siege of Louisbourg in Quebec against French colonial forces in North America.

Charles Rogers, whose portrait is in this exhibition, becomes Chief Clerk of the Customs House.

The admiralty decided that an official uniform for the Royal Navy was needed. Joseph Hamer (husband to Elizabeth Limeburner, in this exhibition) was involved in their design. The first naval uniforms were dyed with indigo. While the admirals preferred red, the King wanted them to be blue.

Augustus Keppel sailed the HMS Centurion from Plymouth to the Mediterranean to persuade the Dey of Algiers to release his subjects from Barbary pirates, resulting in a treaty of 1751. The treaty stopped attacks on British merchant ships. Reynolds accompanied him on this journey.

Francis Barber was taken to London with his enslaver, Colonel Richard Bathurst. He was educated in Yorkshir and then sent to London to become Dr Samuel Johnson's valet. His freedom was granted by Colonel Bathurst's will.

^L 1753

Naval officer Captain Hugh Bonfoy was promoted L 1756 to Colonial Governor of Newfoundland. During this time, he enforced British penal War that continued to 1763. laws in an attempt to manage tension amongst the Irish Catholics, who outnumbered English people living on the island. As a result, Irish Catholics were unable to worship. Some have argued that Bonfoy's actions were to blame for the increasing tensions. The portrait of his wife, Anne, in this exhibition

Elizabeth Limeburner

is painted around this time.

(whose portrait is in this exhibition) marries Captain Joseph Hamar. Both he and her father, also a naval captain, sailed in American waters. He was later the first commanding officer of explorer James Cook (1728-1779) and owned assets in South Carolina and the Bahamas.

The start of the Seven Years The French and British fought in North America became part of a general war in Europe. Britain's subsequent victories consolidated what could be considered the 'First British Empire'. Keppel served as Commodore on the North American Station.

The most significant British slave rebellion in the eighteenth century took place on the British colony of Jamaica. Augustus Keppel is Commander in Chief

of Jamaica Station.

Joshua and Frances

Square, London. That

year he and other artists

form the Society of Artists

exhibitions of contemporary

The Literary Club is founded

Johnson and Edmund Burke.

of Great Britain to hold

art. It was the precursor

to the Royal Academy.

by Reynolds, Samuel

Reynolds moved into a larger

home and studio in Leiceste

^L 1761

Marriage of King George III and Princess Caroline of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. Their coronation is two weeks after the wedding. Elizabeth Keppel, Caroline Russell (whose portraits are in this exhibition) and possibly Reynolds himself attended the wedding.

Siege of Havana. Augustus Keppel was second-in-command to Sir George Pocock at the capture of Havana.

г 1768

Reynolds and several artists

Royal Academy. He became

its first president and gave

lectures that would later be

written down, with the help

of his niece Theophila, and

published as Discourses

on Art that served as

foundational texts for

A Black servant joined

(a pupil of Reynolds)

who owned plantations

modelled for several of

Reynolds is the second

artist to ever be knighted.

Reynolds' paintings.

in Antigua. He may have

although his name is not

recorded James Northcote

been brought to Britain from

suggested that he may have r 1770s

the Caribbean by the wife of Frances Reynolds left

Valentine Morris, a politician Reynolds' household after

a disagreement. His nieces

Mary and Theophila Palmer

went to live with him.

Reynolds was elected

Alderman of the Borough

Reynolds' household,

art education.

1768/69

and architects, including

two women, founded the

John Russell (husband to Gertrude Russell, whose portrait is in this exhibition) negotiated the Treaty of Paris at Versailles for Britain, which ended the Seven Years War.

L 1774

1772

of Plympton.

In 1774 Omai arrives in **England with Commander** Tobais Furneaux. Omai was from Raiatea, French Polynesia, who encountered Captain Cook on his second voyage around the world in 1772. Omai stayed in London for two years where he was presented to the royal court and high society. He returned to Tahiti in 1777. This year, Reynolds' famous portrait of Omai has been acquired by The National Portrait Gallery and the Getty Museum after it was barred from export from the UK to save it for public collections.

^L 1775-1783

Reynolds' younger sister

at the Royal Academy.

Publication of the first of

ten Discourses on Art.

1778

Frances Reynolds exhibited

American Revolutionary War. American colonies gained independence from Britain. Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton, whom Reynolds painted in 1782, came to symbolise British cruelty in this war. He was seen as a "butcher" and is remembered as one of the most controversial figures in to England a hero. During the final years of the war, Augustus Keppel served as First Lord of the Admiralty.

^L 1778

r 1778

Charles Rogers, whose

portrait is in this exhibition,

publishes 'Prints in Imitation

historic drawings in private

time. Francesco Bartolozzi,

exhibition, was one of the

printmakers he employed.

whose portrait is also in this

collections, including

Reynolds', for the first

John Codringdon Bampfylde published 16 sonnets to Mary Palmer, Reynolds' niece. Bampfylde's family of Poltimore House outside Exeter had profited from trade in sugar cultivated by enslaved people in the Caribbean. However, he and his brother voiced abolitionist support. One the revolution, yet he returned of his poems focused on the Abbé Reynall's History the East and West Indies, an anti-slavery text that informed the abolitionist movement in France.

1780 began to be repealed, however, little legislative provision addressed the needs of Travelling communities until the 1968 Caravan Sites Act. Janet Anstruther, whose portrait is in this exhibition, is named in Parliament in a speech for Traveller rights in 1961. ^L 1782

1780

Irish parliament granted independence. The Irish Rebellion of 1789 contested British rule of Ireland. Peter Ludlow, whose portrait is in this exhibition, was an MP in the House of Commons. To the frustration of many of his English peers, he voted enslaved and illegal trade against Ireland's union with Britain and was toasted by anti-unionists. Ireland became part of the newly formed United Kingdom in the Acts of Union in 1800.

г 1784

Reynolds made 'Painter to the

Reynolds spoke in favour of the stopping of 'this cruel of Drawings' that reproduced traffic' – a reference to the trade of enslaved people from Africa – at a dinner party attended by the abolitionist reformers Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce. Read more about this in the text panel nearby.

King' a role he was honoured to receive. However, once in position he was unhappy with the conditions of the role.

Many of Reynolds' clients were linked to the

making of the British Empire and its colonial

career and the portraits and people in this

exhibition within a wider cultural context.

networks. His portraits helped shape the values

of around race, gender, class and power during

the 18th century. This timeline situates Reynolds'

Reynolds resigned as President of the Royal Academy and delivered his last lecture.

Г 1790

Sir Joshua Reynolds died but left Frances financially secure despite their disagreement and named his niece Mary Palmer as his heir. His funeral was held at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

^L 1787

'Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evils of Slavery', the first published critique of chattel slavery by an African person. Reynolds and the Prince of Wales appear on the list of subscribers (funders). It is the most influential anti-slavery trade act of the period. Anti-slavery motions are introduced to parliament.

Ottobah Cugoana published

In Britain, the long road to

Dr Samuel Johnson,

an English writer, poet,

playwright, and critic died.

as his heir, and he received

He named Francis Barber

an annual payment of

£70 (£9,000 in today's

money) from his estate.

abolition gains momentum with the formation of the Society for Effecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade. In 1807 Parliament passed the Slave Trade Abolition Act which terminated the right to buy and sell enslaved people in the British Empire. This did not protect those already continued. Parliament passed the Act for the Abolition of Slavery throughout the British Colonies in 1833. It was not until 1863 that enslaved people were emancipated in the United States.

Reynolds timeline