

Christian Furr

2010



At age 28, Christian Furr was the youngest artist to have officially painted Queen Elizabeth II in 1995. The Queen chose him, from a short-list of artists for a portrait commissioned by the Royal Overseas League in London. Sittings were in the Yellow Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace. In 2002 He painted Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor for Westminster Cathedral and he continues to receive notable commissions worldwide, including recently a portrait of HRH Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz. In 2005 he was commissioned by Robinsons to create a giant portrait of Tim Henman playing Fred Perry for the Wimbledon tournament.

In June 2004 the Artist collected a prestigious AoC Gold Award at the House of Commons -given to further education college alumni who have gone on to achieve excellence in their chosen field. Former winners include Jamie Oliver - Celebrity Chef; the former speaker of the House of Commons, Betty Boothroyd and footwear designer Jimmy Choo.

Born in Heswall, Wirral in 1966. Furr studied Art at Wirral Metropolitan College, Merseyside and De Montfort University, Leicestershire, where he graduated with a first class degree in Fine Art.

He lives - and has a studio - in Richmond-upon-Thames. He is married to Emma, and has three daughters, Colette, Daphne and Anika. He has appeared on several television programmes judging and teaching Art, written a book 'Take Art' and has exhibited around the world and in the UK including at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, the National Portrait Gallery and the Royal Water Colour Society/Sunday Times.

Awards

2007- Guest Speaker, London Best Learners Awards, House of Commons
2005 – MCCA Best Award- Robinsons Commission
2004 - AoC Gold Award, House of Commons
1991 - Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Scholarship

Selected Commissions

2008 – HRH Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz
2005 - Tim Henman, Robinsons - Robinsons commissioned the artist to produce a commemorative work of Art featuring Tim Henman and Fred Perry for Wimbledon. The queuing public recreated the image on a giant canvas at Wimbledon. 'The Great Draw' won The Best Award for 'Best & Most Effective Long Term Communication Campaign' at the MCCA Awards (Marketing Communications Consultants Association)
2002 - Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Westminster Cathedral
2002- Bishops O' Donoghue & Stack, Westminster Cathedral
2002 - Sir Donald Irvine, President General Medical Council
2001 - Professor Robert Shaw, President RC of Gynaecologists and Obstetricians
2000 - Dr Robert Kendall OBE, President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists
2000 - Mrs Judith Ross
1999 - John Dougill, Chief Executive; Institution of Structural Engineers
1998 - Roger Sainsbury MA F.Eng F.I.C.E President, Institution of Civil Engineers
1997 - Dr Lotte Newman CBE, FRCP, President Royal College of General Practitioners
1997 - Noel and Leslie Botham; French House
1995 - Queen Elizabeth II; Royal Overseas League
1993 - Maneck Dalal, Chairman; ROSL
1990 - Professor of Microbiology, Leicester University

Education

Kingston College – BTec Graphic Design
De Montfort University, Leicestershire, 1st class degree in Fine Art
Wirral Metropolitan College - Foundation Course

Group exhibitions

2009 – RWS/Sunday Times Watercolour exhibition, Bankside Gallery, London
2008 - Four Contemporary Masters –Harrogate
2008 - Edinburgh Art Fair , Edinburgh
2007 - Art at Golden Square, London
2007 - Royal Portrait Society, Invited exhibitor, Mall Galleries, London
2006 – Art of Love, Arndean Gallery, Cork Street
2005 - DACS 20th anniversary Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London
2003 – London Art, Jak Gallery, Hoxton
2003 - 'The Archive' The Untitled Gallery, Hampstead, London
2002 - CISAC2002 World Congress Exhibition for DACS, Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1
1999 - National Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery
1994 - Royal Portrait Society Annual Open Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London
1993 - Windsor & Newton Young Artist's Award/ROI Exhibition
1993/4 - Artfair, Francis Kyle Gallery, London
1992/3 - Royal Overseas League Annual Open Exhibition
1991 - East Meets West, Smiths Gallery, London
1989 - John Players National Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery

Solo Exhibitions

2010 – Chelsea Arts Club–London
2009 –Jefferson Wells, 'True and False' Regent Street, London
2008 - Love Your Art, York
2003 – Beatrice Royal Gallery, Hampshire
2000 - La Sinfonia, Key West, Florida
1997 - Royal College of General Practitioners, London
1993 - The Duffer of St George, London
1993 - Royal Overseas League, London
1993 - The Tricycle Gallery, London

Publications

'Take Art'-John Blake Publishing 2008;
The Lost Art' John Blake Publishing 2007

Press Quotes

"A gentle almost classical painting." —The Evening Standard
"His Queen is elegant and regal, but around the mouth and eyes plays a slight, suggestive flicker of a smile... such an intriguing work." — Mail on Sunday
"Furr's own art practise blends traditional artistic virtues - the representation of the human figure and a well-grounded knowledge of the Old Masters - with a keen awareness of contemporary reality." - Paul Glinkowski, Arts Council
Media culture and celebrity intrude into his work: as subjects for his paintings, but also as a professional sideline." - Paul Glinkowski, Arts Council