

**Tate**

AND

# **The National Portrait Gallery**

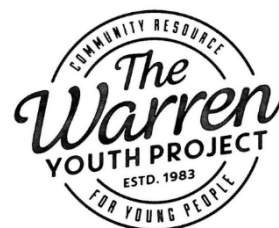
**Preserving William Dobson's *Self-Portrait* c.1635-40**



Job Description: Project Producer at the Ferens Art Gallery with The Warren Youth Project

**William Dobson *Self-Portrait* Tour and Engagement Programme**

**FERENS  
ART GALLERY**



<b>Post:</b>	Project Producer
<b>Band:</b>	Fixed rate of £20,000 for project delivery
<b>Department:</b>	Curatorial
<b>Contract:</b>	Freelance, 1 year (June 2026 - May 2027)
<b>Hours:</b>	Average 2-3 days per week, but with flexibility for some longer weeks (e.g. during installation), and some weeks where activity is low. This will be agreed between the Project Producer and the Curator of Art.
<b>Reporting to:</b>	Curator of Art

## **Background**

### About Ferens Art Gallery

Ferens Art Gallery takes its name from its original benefactor, Thomas Ferens, who was an MP for Kingston upon Hull East in the early 1900s. Earlier, he'd also worked for Hull's Reckitt and Sons, a well-known British manufacturer. Ferens was a long-time supporter of the gallery even before it opened. In 1905, he donated money to the Hull Corporation so they could purchase art for the local collections. Later, in 1917, Ferens donated even more money. This time to build a new art gallery on the site of the former St John's Church. Thanks to his support, Ferens Art Gallery opened in 1927. At first, Ferens Art Gallery was independently run, until 1975, when the museums and art gallery were combined under a single curator.

In the years after opening, Ferens provided a further endowment, which funded most of our existing art collections. We're now home to collections of nationally and internationally significant art – from late medieval painting to modern art. We hold works by prominent European, British and local artists, and much more besides. In May 2015, we received a £4.5 million makeover ahead of hosting the 2017 Turner Prize as part of Hull City of Culture. King Charles and Queen Camilla (then Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall) visited us to admire the refurbishment. Today, we're proud to welcome visitors from Hull and beyond to enjoy one of the UK's finest art collections. Further information can be found on the Ferens section of Hull Museum's website:

[Ferens Art Gallery – Hull Museums and Gallery](#)

### The Warren Youth Project

Established in 1983, The Warren Youth Project provides vital support services to young people in Hull. You can find us opposite the BBC building and the Rosebowl fountain in Queens Gardens. We offer free support, guidance, training, education, counselling, employability skills/training, and creative expression activities and services to young people aged 14-25yrs.

The Warren values its relationships with young people – we know that they are incredibly resourceful and, with support, can ultimately be trusted to know best about their own lives. We do this by ensuring that our policy of empowerment is central to our working practice and subsequently equips young people with the necessary life skills to make informed choices. To do that successfully requires an environment where young

people can be who you they are without feeling judged. We believe that we create that place at The Warren. Further information can be found on the Warren website:

[Home - The Warren](#)

### Self-Portrait by William Dobson

Tate and the National Portrait Gallery (the NPG) have jointly acquired *Self-Portrait* c.1635-40 by William Dobson for the national collection. This is believed to be William Dobson's earliest known painting and considered critical to our national heritage, representing the first great British-born painter at a key moment in his brief career. The acquisition has been supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Art Fund and other generous supporters. Tate and the NPG are now orchestrating a national tour and engagement programme to ensure this work can be accessed by the widest possible audience.

### The Tour

A tour and engagement programme of Dobson's *Self-Portrait* will see us spotlight this important work at Tate Britain (November 2025-6), Ferens Art Gallery, Hull (Jan-May 2027), Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (Jun 27- Jan 28) and the National Portrait Gallery, London (Jan-Jul 2028).

Each display will be at the centre of a programme of activities that responds to each tour partner's strategy and includes family workshops, schools engagement, youth-led programming, public events and talks.

The tour's Strategic Aims include:

- 1 *Discover*: build widespread public awareness and engagement in Dobson's place in history, as an artist working during a time of conflict and war, highlighting the significance of his technical innovation within British art, and how his life and career can shed new light on early 1600s Britain and the role of art/artists during times of unrest
- 2 *Explore*: work with young people and artists to respond to Dobson's work and themes, diversifying the voices interpreting his work and legacy and connecting his relevance to new audiences
- 3 *Upskill*: Embed skills development opportunities for young people across the tour's delivery as participants, co-creators, volunteers and training placements
- 4 *Develop*: Share skills and strengths across tour partners to develop organisational practice in the long-term across access, inclusion, youth engagement, heritage-driven arts interpretation and environmental sustainability

## The Exhibition

### **Art Uprising**

29 January – 23 May 2027, Ferens Art Gallery

Acts of rebellion, uprising and political turmoil spark change that radiates through the fabric of society. It is often led by or a catalyst for cultural change, leading to new artforms, styles of art, and ways of reflecting the changing world happening around us.

This exhibition explores Hull's history of political change and defiance over 700 years, from the Peasant's Revolt in 1381, to COUM Transmissions in the early 1970s. At the centre of the exhibition is the self-portrait by the Civil War portrait artist William Dobson, recently acquired jointly by Tate and the National Portrait Gallery with exceptional support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Dobson is today remembered as the first English-born portrait artist of the Royal Court, working for Charles I during the Civil War.

In response to the exhibition, and the theme of rebellion, young creatives from The Warren Youth Project, Hull, will work alongside a professional to create a new piece of music and artwork, that is shown for the first time in this exhibition.

This exhibition launches the Ferens Art Gallery's centenary celebrations in 2027, and will be followed by a varied public programme celebrating the Gallery, its founder Thomas Ferens, and the people of Hull.

## **THE ROLE**

### **About your team**

You will report directly to the Curator of Art and work closely with colleagues in Learning, Curatorial and Visitor Experience. You will also work closely with the team at The Warren, and work at their premises so you are accessible to the project participants.

### **What you will do**

#### **Project Management**

- Lead the curation, coordination and delivery of the Dobson *Self-Portrait* tour, in close collaboration with the Curator of Art, ensuring all activities at Ferens are delivered as per the Activity Plan submitted to the Heritage Fund.
- Establish and coordinate internal regular project meetings, preparing papers, updates and reports.
- Attend all project partner meetings and report back to colleagues as required.
- Lead the Warren Project co-commission and oversee public and engagement programmes.
- Support registrars and operations colleagues, acting as the main liaison point for the tour.

#### **Project Administration**

- Monitor progress and report any concerns.
- Maintain an excellent awareness of the project, main contacts and stakeholders, and support Ferens' working relationships with them.
- Build a strong collegiate network across the organisation, facilitating collaborative working through clear processes and systems.

- Manage the project budget for Ferens
- Maintain records and keep data for evaluation, collaborating with evaluation consultant(s) when required
- Any other reasonable tasks required.

## What you will bring to the team

### Essential

- Experience of delivering complex, multi-faceted projects.
- Experience of managing budgets.
- Experience of using a wide range of systems and processes.
- Experience in logistics, tour management and programme delivery.
- Demonstrable understanding of the museum and gallery sector.
- Able to demonstrate a proactive approach, attention to detail and highly developed organisational skills.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to work constructively with both internal and external stakeholders from different backgrounds and specialisms.
- Ability to identify and deal with potential problems before they materialise.
- Exceptional team player with the ability to both establish good working relationships and to support and cooperate.
- Ability to work collaboratively across a wide range of disciplines within complex environments.
- A positive, flexible and pro-active approach to work, with the ability to work effectively under pressure.
- Experience of working in a busy, complex organisation.
- Able to contribute to the creation of an inclusive and respectful culture within a team.
- Able to undertake occasional travel and out of hours working to attend meetings and events, as required.
- An interest and a commitment to the work of Ferens Art Gallery.

**The requirements listed here are guidelines, not hard and fast rules. You don't have to satisfy every requirement and we welcome candidates who bring transferable skills. Applying gives you the opportunity to be considered.**

### How to apply

Please submit your CV and an expression of interest (no more than 500 words) to Kerri Offord, Curator of Art at [kerri.offord@hcandl.co.uk](mailto:kerri.offord@hcandl.co.uk) by **midnight on Sunday 21 June**. Please include the subject line 'project Producer' so that your email is easily identified.

Alternatively, a film application can be submitted to the email address above. This should be no more than 3 minutes in length.

If you have any questions about the role, please get in touch with Kerri Offord.

