Empowering Images: Tudor to Jacobean Portraiture

Julia Cruse PhD

Study morning: Saturday 8 June 10am – 1pm

Location: University of Kent Medway, Chatham Maritime

Course fee: £17.50

The iconic pictures of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I dominate our image of the Tudor reign but fashionable portraiture of the wealthy during this period, and into the reign of James I, developed dramatically. Discover the importance and historical legacy of the era’s magnificent individual, family and political portraits.

The walls of many of England’s galleries, such as the National Portrait Gallery in London, museums, stately homes and aristocratic Tudor houses are hung with the glorious portraits and paintings which reflect and reveal to us the vibrant years from Henry VIII’s accession to the throne through the rule of Elizabeth to the reign of James I.

The development of portraiture from 1500 to 1625 was significant and increasingly popular for wealthy men and women outside of court circles. Portraits of merchants, politicians, artists and writers abound as many aspiring individuals commissioned paintings of themselves. These important images illuminate our appreciation of the past by showing us what was worn by the features of sumptuous fabrics and jewellery; culturally we can begin to evaluate different and changing styles; we can determine political, economic and social contexts from the backgrounds to these portraits or the nature of their composition.

Long galleries in aristocratic houses became fashionable as display became a significant feature in the wealthy’s endeavour to impress and portraits were used as a means of enhancing status as well as leaving an enduring legacy as to how these individuals wished to be remembered. The focus of this lecture is to explore the portraits, consider the artists and their techniques, to help our historical understanding and to fire the imagination by seeing these portraits in an exciting light.

About the tutor

Julia Cruse has a PhD in Medieval and Early Modern Studies and has taught undergraduates at the University of Kent. As a mature student she graduated from the University of Kent with a degree in History; her BA dissertation focused on the Paston letters. Her doctoral thesis continued her research into late medieval letter-writing and looked at gentry identity and the politics of letter-writing. She is currently developing education packages to inspire school children and young people about medieval life and history.
General information, terms & conditions

How to book a place on this course
These courses are usually very popular and you are advised to apply as soon as possible. Places cannot be held without payment of the course fee.

- Online Booking is preferred. Please visit www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge
- By post to us at the address below, using the paper application form available from our website. Alternatively please contact us on 01732 352316 if you require an application form to be posted to you.

Please note that you will not receive an acknowledgment of your paper application; your payment will usually be processed when the course becomes financially viable, otherwise we will notify you of cancellation approximately seven days prior to the course.

An online course booking or paper application affirms acceptance of our Terms & Conditions.

Medway Campus, Chatham
- The course will be taught at the Medway campus in Chatham.
- You will receive details about which building and room on the campus will be used for the seminar approximately one week before the seminar date.
- Unfortunately we are not able to provide any refreshments, but you are welcome to take a drink with you.
- Parking. For directions to the Medway campus please visit: www.kent.ac.uk/locations/medway/directions.html We recommend you use the Drill Hall car park for courses on Saturdays.

Mailing List and data protection
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As these short courses are self-financing, each course can only proceed if there are sufficient enrolments. Therefore, if a course is cancelled due to insufficient enrolments we aim to notify applicants approximately one week before the course start date; if there is no suitable alternative course, we will refund the appropriate course fee in full. The University of Kent reserves the right to cancel a course for this or any other reason in which case the relevant course fee will be refunded in full.

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- a course fee of up to and including £42 will incur an administrative handling fee of £10.00
- a course fee of £43 and over will incur an administrative handling fee of £12.50.

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Please contact us if you have any queries or would like to register your email address to receive our course information updates. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

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