

## EXHIBITIONS 2010

### 16 January–20 March **GAINSBOROUGH DRAWINGS FROM THE COLLECTION**

The permanent collection at Gainsborough's House includes an outstanding selection of drawings by Thomas Gainsborough and his contemporaries. This display of works on paper focuses on Gainsborough's interest in the landscape.

Inspired as a young boy by the Suffolk countryside, Gainsborough was one of the first artists in Britain to depict both observable and imaginary views of the land. The exhibition includes drawings chosen from the collection alongside some important loans, such as Gainsborough's *Study for the Harvest Wagon*.



Thomas Gainsborough,  
*Peasants going to Market 1770–74*,  
chalk and wash on brown paper

### 27 March–26 June **WORKING THE LAND PART I: JUSTIN PARTYKA**

This is the first of two exhibitions in 2010 to focus on the rural and farming traditions of East Anglia. Justin Partyka is a photographer and writer who lives and works in Norfolk.



Justin Partyka, *Suffolk 2006*, photograph

His photographic images, often on a large scale, explore an agrarian community of farm workers and labourers, who have found themselves on the margins of society, clinging to traditions and a lifestyle that is ingrained in their very being. Partyka's subtle yet powerful work presents the viewer with a window on to a fading community who look towards an uncertain future.

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### 3 July–25 September **HUMPHREY SPENDER (1910–2005): A CENTENARY CELEBRATION**

This exhibition spans Humphrey Spender's extraordinary career as an artist and a designer. He is best-known as a photographer, and for his striking images of ordinary British life, including those for the Mass Observation survey of the 1930s and for the *Picture Post*. He produced a lively series of photographs of the townsfolk of Sudbury on Market Day in 1934. However, Spender's artistic interests spread far wider than photography alone. As this exhibition will demonstrate, he was also a designer, painter, printmaker and illustrator. His versatility, innovation and experimental techniques and creative imagination will be celebrated in this centenary show.



Humphrey Spender,  
*Tyneside - Unemployed, 1936*, photograph

### 2 October–18 December **WORKING THE LAND PART II: HARRY BECKER**

Harry Becker (1865–1928) was one of the most distinct and creative artists of the region. His subject-matter was rooted in Suffolk country life and the ploughmen, harvesters and gleaners who worked the land at that time. He was a prolific and passionate artist, adopting a wide range of materials. The display will encompass small-scale oils and many of his vibrant drawings, lithographs and etchings. The exhibition is the second of two shows in 2010 to explore the East Anglian rural tradition in the face of an increasingly urban way of life.



Harry Becker,  
*Man Sitting on a Gate*, oil on canvas

## EDUCATION

Gainsborough's House provides a lively Education and Outreach programme, aimed at both adults and children.

We run a variety of workshops and guided tours for schools, community groups and organised parties of visitors from the region and beyond. During the school holidays, we organise a series of exciting events for children and families. Regular classes are also on offer, such as Artsmart, a Saturday morning art class for children, and a monthly Life Drawing session for adults.

Art history lectures and gallery talks are programmed throughout the year. Our Education Officer also runs Outreach sessions to schools, art societies and other community groups.

Further details about our education programme are published in separate brochures.



### FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Gainsborough's House is an independent charity that relies for its income on donations, grants, admissions and revenue from its Gift Shop and Coffee Shop. Museum funds are also raised by the Friends of Gainsborough's House and its Patrons organisation. These groups of supporters benefit from lively programmes of trips, talks and other social events. We also welcome involvement from volunteers to assist in the House or Coffee Shop.

If you would like to know more about Friends or Patrons membership or other ways in which you could support the Museum, please contact us (details overleaf).

## PRINT WORKSHOP

Established at Gainsborough's House in the 1970s, the Print Workshop is a friendly and professional studio neighbouring Gainsborough's House and opening onto its charming garden.

The Print Workshop is now recognised as one of the best facilities of its kind in the country and welcomes printmakers through its membership scheme and courses.

A programme of classes, intensive summer courses and tailor-made workshops for community and educational groups is designed to help both experienced artists and newcomers to printmaking develop a wide range of skills.

Details of courses are available in separate leaflets.



## GAINSBOROUGH'S BIRTHPLACE

Gainsborough's House is the birthplace museum of Thomas Gainsborough (1727–1788), one of the greatest painters in the history of British art. More of his paintings, drawings and prints are on display here at any one time than anywhere else in the world.

46 Gainsborough Street is an attractive town-house in the heart of the bustling market town of Sudbury. It dates from around 1500 and retains many interesting architectural features. Its Georgian façade, built by the artist's father, and other elegant additions are eighteenth-century.



Statue of Gainsborough overlooking Market Hill, Sudbury

The visitor entrance to the museum is on

Weavers Lane and leads into the Gift Shop and Coffee Shop, with the Hills Room Education Centre upstairs. This room is used for lectures, educational activities and social events. The entrance area leads out on to the terrace and the delightful walled garden, with its ancient mulberry tree.



View of the House from the walled garden

## COLLECTION

The collection of Gainsborough's work encompasses the artist's whole career, from early portraits or landscapes painted in Suffolk in the 1750s to later works from his London period of the 1770s and 80s.

The permanent collection is augmented by several loans of paintings by Gainsborough or his contemporaries, from public and private collections. The outstanding collection of drawings is housed in a Study Gallery, alongside prints, rare books and Gainsborough ephemera. Here, visitors can view a selection of works on paper and can have access to all works in the collection by appointment.



Thomas Gainsborough, *Portrait of Harriet, Viscountess Tracey*, c. 1763, oil on canvas

Artists close to Gainsborough are also represented in the main galleries, such as his nephew and studio assistant Gainsborough Dupont (1754-1797), and those who were teachers or followers. A fascinating collection of Gainsborough memorabilia is displayed in the Entrance Hall, and includes the artist's studio cabinet, his sword-stick, paint scraper and pocket-watch.



Thomas Gainsborough, *Model of an Old Horse*, ?1760s, plaster

## VISITOR INFORMATION



Follow the pedestrian signposts from the town centre car parks or railway station. Disabled parking is available on Market Hill and Gainsborough Street

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Monday to Saturday 10am–5pm  
Closed Good Friday and 24 December to 2 January 2011

Adults £4.50  
Concessions £3.60  
Children age 5–18 and Students £2.00  
Family £10.00  
Free entry on Tuesday afternoons (1–5pm)

For Group rates, hire of the Hills Room or House and the Friends, Volunteers and Patrons schemes contact us on: 01787 372958 or mail@gainsborough.org

FRONT: Francesco Bartolozzi (1727–1815) after Thomas Gainsborough *Self-portrait*, 1798, stipple engraving

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Gainsborough's House is a registered museum, 687 administered by Gainsborough's House Society (registered charity number 214046) and supported by Suffolk County Council, Sudbury Town Council, Babergh District Council and the Friends and Patrons of Gainsborough's House.



# Gainsborough's House



2010

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Sudbury, Suffolk