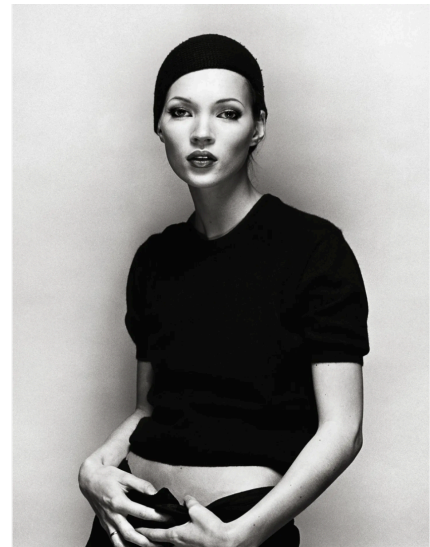


RENEWED INTRIGUE –WHY FASHIONISTAS WILL FLOCK TO THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

The storied institution is set to play host to a new exhibition next February, honouring the seismic contribution that *The Face Magazine* has made to contemporary culture.



The NPG has triumphed in its trust in all things new. This year alone, the esteemed gallery oversaw the appointment of its thirteenth (and the first female) director in its hallowed 169-year history, the full return of gallery operations following a 3-year-long, £41 million refurbishment and the introduction of a hugely exciting, comprehensive schedule of events and exhibitions. Amongst these include current and upcoming showings from trailblazing artists such as *Francis Bacon: Human Presence*, *Edvard Munch Portraits* and *Jenny Saville: The Anatomy of Painting*.

However, for fashion enthusiasts, the recently announced 2025 lineup marks its most momentous to date. *The Face Magazine: Culture Shift* was announced this past week and is already sparking anticipation in the fashion scene. Running from 20 February - 18 May 2025, the Face's visionary visual archives will be presented in its most immersive and engaging format to date – affording viewers a rare chance to peer at the photography away from the magazine for the first time. It's set to celebrate the iconic publication's cultural impact from 1980 - 2004, through its teeming archive of trail-blazing imagery– compiling the work of over 80 photographers through 200 photographs, allowing fans to reminisce and reflect fondly on the zeitgeist captured by the magazine and younger age demographics to draw inspiration from it (and make comparisons to the current

magazine, which was relaunched in 2019). Stéphane Sednaoui, David Sims and Sølve Sundsbø are just some of the names that you can expect to see at this offering curated by Lee Swillingham (former Art Director of *The Face* from 1992 to 1999) and Sabina Jaskot-Gill (Senior Curator of Photographs at the National Portrait Gallery.) There will also be a book published to accompany the exhibition, which will comprise insights and interviews from informed experts such as Ekow Eshun, Matthew Whitehouse, and Norbert Schoerner.

This recognition of fashion history and the impact of the individuals involved in its creation continues next October with *Cecil Beaton's Fashionable World* (9 October 2025 - 11 January 2026) – the first staging of its kind to hone in on the legendary British photographer's work within the realm of fashion, aside from his achievements as an esteemed costume designer, social caricaturist, royal photographer and talented writer. It promises to 'showcase Beaton at his most triumphant – from the Jazz Age and the Bright Young Things, to the high fashion brilliance of the fifties and the glittering, Oscar-winning success of *My Fair Lady*.' In the words of Beaton, it sounds like a “daring, different and impractical” visual feast.

With not one, but numerous new exhibitions piquing the public's interest, the NPG is a shining example of how compelling change can be ... when implemented correctly.