

## Portraiture and Painting

The story of British art in the country house could almost be defined in terms of portraiture, which was the dominant genre in Britain until the rise of landscape painting and genre pictures in the later eighteenth century. Portraiture remained an essential means of capturing familylikenesses and recording ancestral lineage.

The following list covers the sixteenth to the late nineteenth centuries, with a strong emphasis on the eighteenth century, when the rise of the conversation piece captured sitters and interiors with remarkable clarity. The relationship between aristocratic patrons and painters of the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries is not included in this section. Taste in other genres of painting, and fashions for collecting are briefly outlined in the section on Collecting.

In the digital age searching for images of paintings has never been easier, and most galleries have good search engines for their holdings. Especially important is the National Portrait Gallery: [www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

The major auction houses also produce well-researched and illustrated catalogues of British paintings for their principal sales each year.

The following journals are useful for this topic.

*Apollo*

*Art Bulletin*

*Art History*

*British Art Journal*

*Burlington Magazine*

*Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*

*Irish Arts Review*

*Journal of the History of Collections*

*Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes*

*Oxford Art Journal*

*Sculpture Journal*

*Sculpture Review*

### Background and Reference

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