# National Gallery unveils thematic rehang bridging Titian and Monet in new visitor experience



# A New Chapter for the National Gallery: Embracing Thematic Narratives and Timeless Masterpieces

The National Gallery in London is preparing to unveil an ambitious rehang of its celebrated collection in May 2025, coinciding with the renovation of the Sainsbury Wing. This momentous initiative, titled "C C Land: The Wonder of Art," marks a significant evolution in how the museum presents its rich tapestry of European art. Aimed at engaging a new generation of visitors, the rehang will feature over 1,100 works by 400 artists, thus inviting a fresh examination of historical narratives through thematic displays rather than strict chronological order.

Among the most exciting developments is the decision to showcase the works of Titian and Monet together for the first time, allowing visitors to directly compare their artistic innovations in a dedicated setting. As part of this refurbishment, gems such as Piero della Francesca’s *The Baptism of Christ* and Paolo Uccello’s *The Battle of San Romano* will find a home in the redesigned Sainsbury Wing, emphasising the masterful storytelling inherent in these old masterpieces while seamlessly blending them with contemporary narratives.

Visitors to the National Gallery will be welcomed by changes that promise to enhance the viewer's experience. Drawing attention to the gallery's quieter areas—an approach that aligns with a growing trend in museum curation—the space will encourage introspection amid a curated calm. The introduction of striking works, like Leonardo da Vinci's *Virgin of the Rocks*, set against a modern aesthetic, ensures that the magical labyrinth of galleries remains accessible and inviting. As one reviewer noted, “this is one of the greatest museums of painting in the world, a magic labyrinth whose every picture is a door to Wonderland.”

The rehang aims to not only bring to the fore the artistic brilliance of the old masters but also to create conversations around emotional expressions in portraiture. The exhibition space devoted to individual artists offers a rare opportunity to delve deeply into the works of figures such as Holbein, who redefined portraiture in the 16th century, inviting viewers to engage with a narrative of inner life and personal identity. Holbein’s *Ambassadors* will be displayed alongside Giovanni Battista Moroni’s *The Tailor*, showcasing the era’s nuanced portrayal of the human condition.

Moreover, changes have been made to ensure that the gallery remains accessible while preserving the integrity of its vast collection. The British gallery will see an now focused representation of 18th-century art, with notable works by Hogarth and Gainsborough taking centre stage, reflecting themes of familial love and fragility. Notable among these is Gainsborough's poignant *The Painter's Daughters Chasing a Butterfly*, which encapsulates fleeting moments of joy and intimacy.

While the initiative draws praise for its progressive approach, it does not shy away from honouring the historical roots of the collection. The rearrangement of the gallery’s narrative journey—from the northern Renaissance to the depiction of human emotion—is a narrative shift that continues to acknowledge the intricate evolution of artistic expression. Critics have remarked on the meticulous attention to detail in pairing works through thematic lenses, with a focus on still-life paintings that resonate with both historical significance and contemporary aesthetics.

As the National Gallery embarks on this monumental rehang, it stands not only as a custodian of European art but also as an active participant in the ongoing dialogue about artistic interpretation and public engagement. The initiative promises to breathe new life into the gallery’s offerings while maintaining its status as a vital cultural touchstone in London and beyond.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/may/07/national-gallery-rehang-review-momentous-leonardo-titian), [[2]](https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/08/04/more-than-1100-works-by-400-artists-how-the-national-gallery-collection-will-be-redisplayed), [[3]](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/12/national-gallery-announces-once-in-a-generation-redisplay-of-major-holdings/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/may/07/national-gallery-rehang-review-momentous-leonardo-titian), [[4]](https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/press-and-media/press-releases/the-national-gallery-year-ahead-round-up-2024-and-2025), [[5]](https://waldemar.tv/2025/01/carbuncle-or-coup-a-sneak-preview-of-the-new-look-national-gallery/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/may/07/national-gallery-rehang-review-momentous-leonardo-titian), [[2]](https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/08/04/more-than-1100-works-by-400-artists-how-the-national-gallery-collection-will-be-redisplayed), [[3]](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/12/national-gallery-announces-once-in-a-generation-redisplay-of-major-holdings/), [[4]](https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/press-and-media/press-releases/the-national-gallery-year-ahead-round-up-2024-and-2025)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/12/national-gallery-announces-once-in-a-generation-redisplay-of-major-holdings/), [[6]](https://camd.org.au/londons-national-gallery-bicentenary/), [[7]](https://blooloop.com/museum/in-depth/the-national-gallery-200-years/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/may/07/national-gallery-rehang-review-momentous-leonardo-titian), [[4]](https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/press-and-media/press-releases/the-national-gallery-year-ahead-round-up-2024-and-2025), [[6]](https://camd.org.au/londons-national-gallery-bicentenary/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/may/07/national-gallery-rehang-review-momentous-leonardo-titian> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/08/04/more-than-1100-works-by-400-artists-how-the-national-gallery-collection-will-be-redisplayed> - The National Gallery in London is undertaking a comprehensive rehang of its collection, set to be unveiled in May 2025. This ambitious project involves refurbishing, redesigning, and relighting 65 galleries, showcasing over 1,100 works by approximately 400 artists. The rehang aims to present the collection in a fresh light, emphasizing thematic displays and highlighting the depth of holdings in certain artists, such as Titian and Monet. The initiative also includes the reopening of the Sainsbury Wing, which will house significant works like Piero della Francesca’s 'The Baptism of Christ' and Paolo Uccello’s 'The Battle of San Romano'.
3. <https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/12/national-gallery-announces-once-in-a-generation-redisplay-of-major-holdings/> - In celebration of its bicentenary, London's National Gallery has announced a major rehang of its collection, alongside new acquisitions and loans. The rehang, titled 'C C Land: The Wonder of Art', will coincide with the reopening of the Sainsbury Wing. This marks the first time the gallery’s Titian holdings have been displayed in the same room, and includes new acquisitions by Poussin, Degas, and the French impressionist Eva Gonzalès. The works will be hung in a primarily chronological arrangement, starting with medieval art in the newly renovated Sainsbury Wing, which is due to reopen in May after a three-year redevelopment.
4. <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/about-us/press-and-media/press-releases/the-national-gallery-year-ahead-round-up-2024-and-2025> - The National Gallery has announced its plans for 2024 and 2025, including the reopening of the refurbished Sainsbury Wing in May 2025. The rehang, titled 'C C Land: The Wonder of Art', will feature rooms dedicated to individual artists, marking the first time the gallery’s works by Titian and Monet will each be brought together. The rehang will also include thematic displays, such as a room focusing on still-life paintings and another on the use of gold in the medieval period. The initiative aims to provide visitors with a fresh perspective on the gallery's extensive collection.
5. <https://waldemar.tv/2025/01/carbuncle-or-coup-a-sneak-preview-of-the-new-look-national-gallery/> - Art critic Waldemar Januszczak provides a sneak preview of the National Gallery's upcoming rehang, titled 'C C Land: The Wonder of Art'. The rehang will feature thematic displays, such as a room dedicated to still-life paintings, and will bring together works by artists like Titian and Monet for the first time. The initiative aims to present the collection in a fresh light, emphasizing thematic displays and highlighting the depth of holdings in certain artists. The rehang is set to coincide with the reopening of the refurbished Sainsbury Wing in May 2025.
6. <https://camd.org.au/londons-national-gallery-bicentenary/> - In celebration of its bicentenary, London's National Gallery has announced a major rehang of its collection, set to be unveiled in May 2025. The rehang will coincide with the reopening of the Sainsbury Wing, which has been closed for refurbishment for two years. The initiative aims to provide visitors with a fresh perspective on the gallery's extensive collection, emphasizing thematic displays and highlighting the depth of holdings in certain artists, such as Titian and Monet. The rehang will also include the reopening of the Sainsbury Wing, which will house significant works like Piero della Francesca’s 'The Baptism of Christ' and Paolo Uccello’s 'The Battle of San Romano'.
7. <https://blooloop.com/museum/in-depth/the-national-gallery-200-years/> - The National Gallery in London is undertaking a major rehang of its collection, set to be unveiled in May 2025. The rehang will look at the collection in slightly new ways, with more emphasis on theming and thematic displays. The initiative aims to spark conversations about painting from different centuries by pairing works in surprising ways, while still broadly maintaining a chronological framework. The rehang will coincide with the reopening of the refurbished Sainsbury Wing, which will house significant works like Piero della Francesca’s 'The Baptism of Christ' and Paolo Uccello’s 'The Battle of San Romano'.