

MY NATIONAL GALLERY LONDON

PRODUCER **PHIL GRABSKY** | DIRECTORS **ALI RAY & PHIL GRABSKY**

From the Producer & Co-Director

Most of our films include – and benefit from – art historians, curators, institutional directors. But my view is that anyone can have a view about an artwork and frequently those views can offer us new and thought-provoking insights. Thus, we decided to focus on the staff of the National Gallery in London and ask as broad a cross-section as possible, *“what is your favourite painting and why?”* A few members of the public thrown into the mix with a sprinkling of celebrities, and I hope we have baked you an entertaining and educational cake that will leave you full and content. **Phil Grabsky**

From the Co-Director

What draws you to this painting? This simple question has evoked a myriad of responses during my interviews at the National Gallery. These narratives aren't found in guidebooks or on the labels on the walls. And therein lies the essence of this film; each of us uncovers a unique story within a piece of art. Despite featuring some of the world's greatest artists in this film, from **Da Vinci** to **Titian**, **Bellini** to **Degas**, I haven't art historians about the context or techniques of the works. Instead, my focus has been on exploring what these artworks actually mean to us.

The making of this film coincides with the National Gallery's bicentenary so it seems like a great opportunity to explore the relevance of the collection in 2024. I wonder how many people in the UK realise that they effectively 'own' over 2000 pieces of world-class art that they can go and look at for free.

I'm aware that many people are convinced that art isn't for them; I'm hoping this film might convince them otherwise. As one of my interviewees says, *“Art is just about human stories – and how can people say that isn't for them?”* **Ali Ray**



Subscribe to our free newsletter
at **seventh-art.com**



Why not watch the next film in the series?
VAN GOGH: POETS & LOVERS
[EX38]

