

This November
explore the
diversity of The
National Archives'
collection with
our series of talks

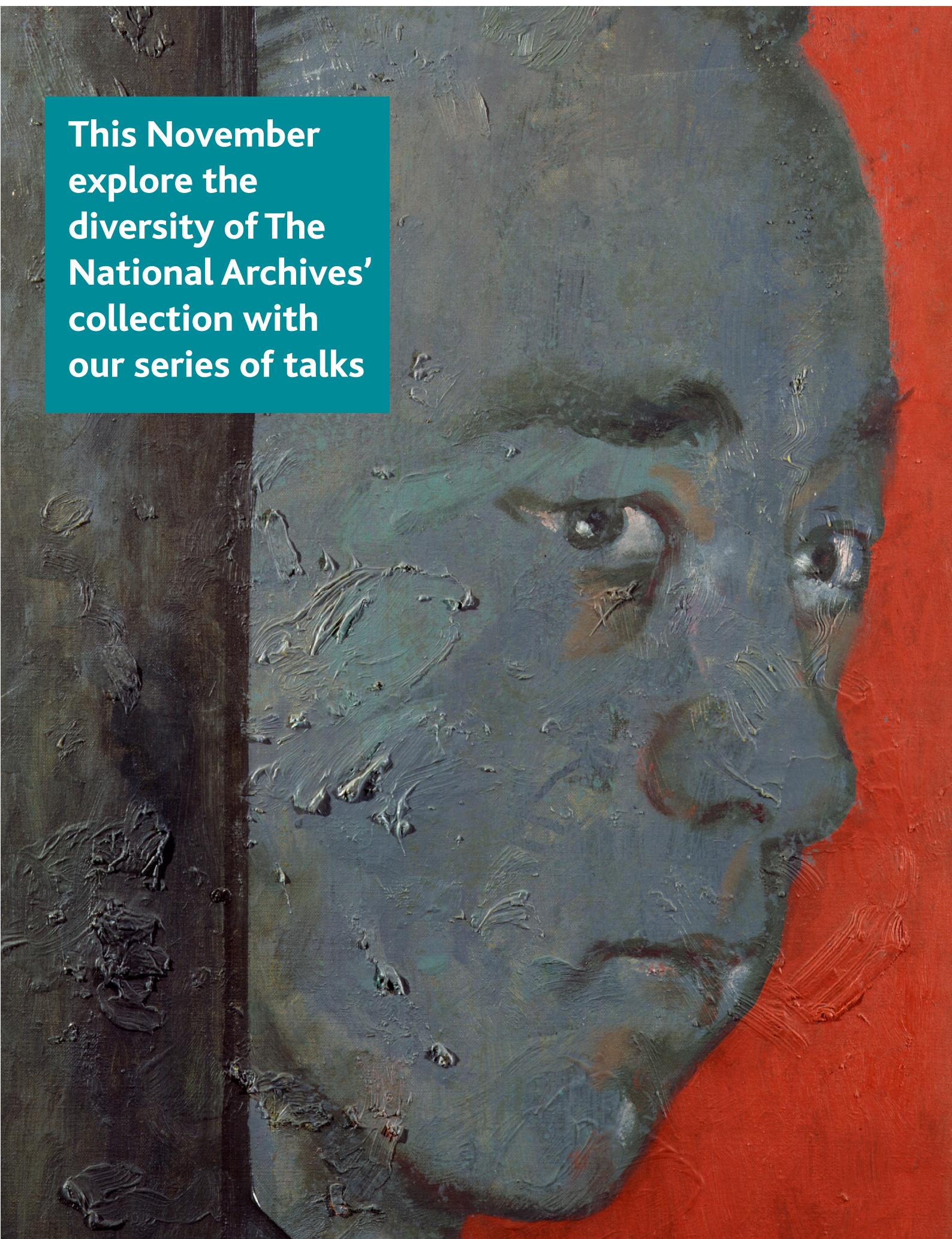




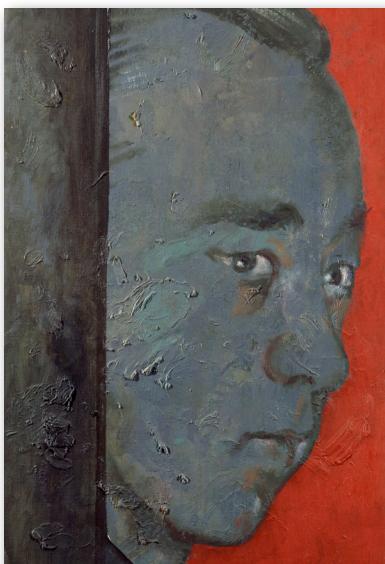
Image from The National Archives

Wednesday 14th November, 14:00

Ugandan Asians in Britain: journeys across three continents to find a home

(Karim Hussain)

It has been 40 years since Idi Amin arbitrarily expelled over 70,000 Asians resident in Uganda. Given only ninety days to leave the land-locked East African country, most were forced to abandon homes and businesses taking with them only what they could carry. Almost 30,000 Ugandan Asians found refuge in Britain. Using The National Archives records, this talk examines the extraordinary journey of these resilient people who turned adversity and trauma into success, becoming one of the most settled minority communities in Britain's multicultural society.



6552: William John Christopher Vassall
by Cecil Beaton
© National Portrait Gallery, London

Thursday 15th November, 14:00

The scandalous case of John Vassall: Sexuality, Spying and The Civil Service

(Mark Dunton)

50 years ago, John Vassall, a civil servant, was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment for espionage. Vassall was homosexual and whilst working as a clerk in the British Embassy in Moscow, he was caught in a 'honeytrap' sprung by the Soviet Secret Service, and blackmailed into passing secrets to the Soviet Union. Was Vassall a traitor or victim? Dunton explores this question and many more whilst placing the affair in the wider context of negative attitudes towards homosexuality in post-war Britain, and the long-term repercussions which followed Vassall's trial for equal treatment of gay people working in the Civil Service.



Image from Library of Congress

Friday 16th November, 14:00

The strange journey of 'Edward Swarthy' an African in Elizabethan England: from the Spanish Caribbean to rural Gloucestershire

(Dr Miranda Kaufmann)

In 1597, an African man named 'Edward Swarthy, alias negro' appeared before an English court. He gave evidence that, at the command of his employer, Sir Edward Wynter, he had whipped another servant, John Guye, in the hall of his house in Lydney, Gloucestershire. Through the prism of this man's life, as documented in the court records held at The National Archives, Dr Kaufmann, who has discovered evidence of over 350 Africans in Britain between 1500-1640, will explore questions such as how Africans came to Tudor England, what sort of work they did and what their legal status was.

**All talks are free and held at The National Archives in Kew.
For more information about the talks, visit nationalarchives.gov.uk/events**