



Press Releases Help Rolf Harris recreate a larger-than-life King Henry VIII

Category: [Factual & Arts TV](#)

Date: [28.08.2005](#)

Trafalgar Square turns Tudor in one of London's biggest free art events on Sunday 25 September 2005.

Rolf Harris is looking for artists of all abilities to help create his next big challenge in Trafalgar Square, London.

People are invited to call the BBC on 0870 333 4585 to register their interest in taking part and will be asked to explain why **Rolf on Art** should choose them!

The phone lines are only open for 28 hours from 8.00pm on 28 August until midnight on 29 August 2005.

In a collaboration between the BBC, the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery and the Mayor of London, artists from all over the UK will join forces and create their version of Holbein's majestic depiction of Henry VIII on a giant ten metre by five metre canvas.

BBC ONE viewers will be able to follow the progress of the painting in a live programme - **Rolf on Art - The Big Event**.

For Rolf, the painting provides an exciting opportunity to get artists of all abilities working together, as well as creating an event that hundreds of visitors to Trafalgar Square can join in with.

He says: "Last year we had a fantastic time creating Constable's *The Haywain* at Trafalgar Square. Now we are calling all artists, professional or amateur, to register to join me and add their touch to one of 108 canvases in this year's huge painting.

"It's a great opportunity for people to try out their artistic flair and at the end of the day we hope to have recreated part of Holbein's famous mural, which originally featured Henry VII and Henry VIII.

"Unfortunately the painting was destroyed in a fire at Whitehall Palace in 1698 but, from one of Holbein's preparatory drawings, we are aiming to restore Henry VIII to his former glory, only on a slightly bigger scale!"

For those who are inspired by Rolf to explore their creative talents or find out more about Holbein, there will be a range of activities hosted by the BBC, the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery throughout the day.

Members of the public will be able to create Tudor-style jewellery, learn about painting techniques used by Holbein, take part in Tudor dances and experience what it would have been like to have lived during the Tudor period.

At the National Portrait Gallery, there will be the chance to recreate Holbein's cartoon of Henry VIII, learn more about Holbein's history and painting techniques - and children will be able to make life-size self portraits.

A bespoke tour will also be running at the National Gallery, which will offer the chance to learn more about Holbein's paintings.

A small group of artists will be completing canvases on the day at the Walker Centre in Liverpool, where a portrait of Henry VIII, painted by an unknown artist in the style of Holbein, is displayed. These, when completed, will then be flown down to meet Rolf in London.

Rolf on Art - The Big Event is a live programme on BBC ONE where viewers will be able to follow the progress of the painting and see if Rolf and his team manage to complete the final masterpiece in time.

Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, adds: "I am delighted to welcome Rolf and budding artists of all ages and abilities to Trafalgar Square for a second year.

"The creation of Constable's The Haywain last year was a great experience for everyone involved and was enjoyed by visitors to Trafalgar Square and millions of viewers around the country."

Notes to Editors

▸ Rolf on Art - The Big Event starts at 11.00am on 25 September 2005. Activities will be scheduled throughout the day.

- Rolf on Art - The Big Event is a collaboration between the BBC, the National Gallery, the National Portrait Gallery and the Mayor of London.
- Further information on exhibitions and events at the National Portrait Gallery, plus location and access information can be found at www.npg.org.uk
- Further information on exhibitions and events at the National Gallery, plus access information and opening times can be found at www.nationalgallery.org.uk
- Rolf on Art - The Big Event is part of a year-round programme of free events in Trafalgar Square by the Mayor of London. For further information go to www.london.gov.uk
- Trafalgar Square, London, is fully accessible to disabled visitors with two lifts from the upper to lower terrace and toilet facilities.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2005/08_august/28/rolf.shtml