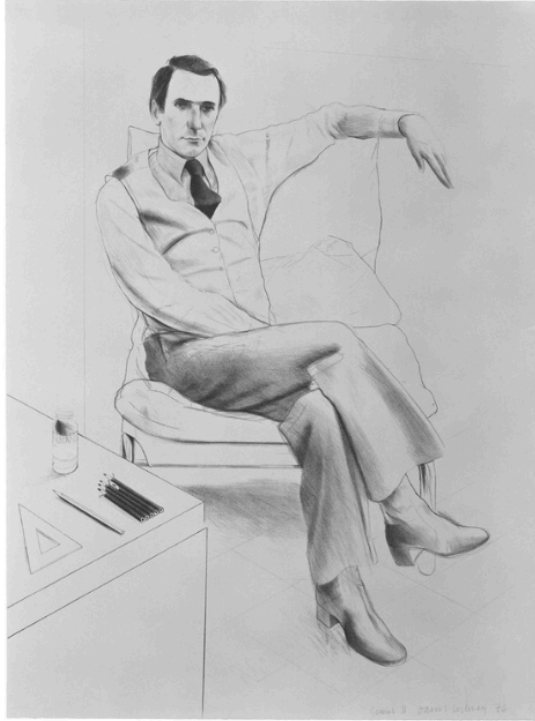


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David Hockney, *Nicholas Wilder*, 1976
1 color lithograph, 32 7/8" x 24 7/8" (83.50 x 63.18 cm)
(DH76-764), Edition of 95

For Immediate Release

David Hockney: Selected Portraits, 1976-1995
On View July 12 – August 17, 2018

Gemini G.E.L. is pleased to present an exhibition of lithographic portraits by David Hockney. *David Hockney: Selected Portraits, 1976-1995* will be on view from July 12 and will feature twelve portraits printed and published by Gemini G.E.L.

Born in Bradford, England in 1937, David Hockney is a painter, printmaker, photographer and stage designer widely known for his brightly colored renderings of verdant landscapes and portraits of friends and colleagues. The first portrait Hockney made was of his father in 1955, and ever since he has continued drawing and painting his family and friends, sometimes focusing solely on portraiture for long periods of time. A key element in many of his works, particularly his portraits, is a sense of deep familiarity and affection for his subjects. Indeed, Hockney's portraits read as a diary of his inner circle and daily life. He once described portraits as being "made up of insights," in which he captures the essence of his sitters—their personalities and temperament—rather than creating an exact likeness. This intimate look into Hockney's world is clear in the portraits included in the exhibition, which features lifelong friends Joe McDonald, Nicholas Wilder, Don Cribb, and Peter Schlesinger, as well as his brother John Hockney, the author Michael Crichton, and Gemini co-founder Sidney Felsen.

Dovetailing with the exhibition *David Hockney: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-Life*, on display at Los Angeles County Museum of Art through July 29, Gemini's show features three sitters also found in LACMA's presentation—Don Cribb, John Hockney and Gregory Evans. Evans, Hockney's lover, long-time muse and studio manager, has been the artist's frequent model since they first met in 1971. The precisely-rendered lithographic portrait was drawn by Hockney directly onto a large limestone as part of a 1976 session in the Gemini artist studio in which a dozen of his friends were invited to sit. Dressed in wide-legged slacks and a floppy bow tie, youthful curls pile on Evans' head



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as he stares off into the distance. The formal style of the seated pose is a modern revival of the Victorian photographic studio.

Another close friend and former lover, Peter Schlesinger has been the subject of some of Hockney's most intimate works, including a series of paintings featuring Schlesinger swimming nude in a pool. In the Gemini print, Schlesinger is portrayed facing Hockney straight-on, with a deadpan expression. We see him only from the shoulders up, a cropped style similar to a Polaroid picture. Hockney uses this cropped style in several other portraits in the show, including that of Michael Crichton. Known for works such as *Andromeda Strain* (1985), *Westworld* (1973), and *Jurassic Park* (1990), the famed author and screenwriter was six feet nine inches tall. Humorously, Hockney decided to render Crichton's head and shoulders on paper measuring over 40-inches tall as a nod to Crichton's remarkable height.

In addition to Crichton, Hockney has drawn other writers, including William Burroughs and Christopher Isherwood. Isherwood is the subject of the most detailed work in the show, alongside his partner, artist Don Bachardy. The pair sits in a characteristic Hockney interior, barefoot and adorned in white bathrobes. With his subjects looking comfortable and casual, Hockney has given the viewer an intimate view into the couple's private life.

Hockney's work is often associated with the development of British Pop art in the 1960s, and he is considered one of the most versatile and broadly influential artists of the 20th century. He studied at the Bradford School of Art between 1953 and 1957, and continued on to the Royal College of Art London in 1959. His works are in major museum collections worldwide including the Centre Pompidou, Paris; The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Louisiana Museum of Art, Humlebæk, Denmark; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh; National Portrait Gallery, London; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Tate, London; and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, among others.

Hockney has been the subject of 400 solo exhibitions and several retrospectives, including one organized in 1988 by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, which then traveled to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and Tate Gallery, London. Notable recent exhibitions include *82 Portraits and I Still Life*, which was organized by the Royal Academy, London (2016) and travelled to Ca' Pesaro, Venice (2017), Guggenheim Bilbao (2017), Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2018); *A Bigger Picture* (2012), organized by the Royal Academy of Arts, London, that travelled to Guggenheim Bilbao (2012), Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2012 – 2013); *A Bigger Exhibition*, de Young Museum, San Francisco (2014); *Happy Birthday, Mr. Hockney* at The Getty Museum, Los Angeles (2017).

Hockney has received many awards and achievements throughout his career, including nine honorary degrees from academic institutions worldwide. Among his honors, Hockney received a Guinness Award (1961), was elected Associate Member of the Royal Academy of Arts in London (1986), and made an Associate Member of the Academie Royale, Brussels (1987). He was made a Foreign Honorary Member by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1997. In the same year was awarded the Order of the Companion of Honour by Queen Elizabeth II and was later appointed to the Order of Merit by Queen Elizabeth II in 2012.

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