



HISTORIES OF BRITISH ART

1660-1735 RECONSTRUCTION AND TRANSFORMATION

ABSTRACT: SUSAN E. GORDON

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'The English garden, c. 1660-1735: breaking the mould at Castle Howard'

1731 marks the year Britain signed the Treaty of Vienna, Edward Cave founded the *Gentleman's Magazine* and Charles Howard, the 3rd Earl of Carlisle, purchased statues with which to adorn the landscape surrounding his English Baroque country house, Castle Howard, in North Yorkshire. This paper aims at highlighting the importance all three events had (politically, culturally, visually) on the creation of that most iconic of British art forms, the English landscape garden, spanning the divide between court, country, city, 1660-1735. In my paper, I shall address the figures chosen not as much for their artistic merit, per se, but for their visual sources and iconographic signification. Three years prior to their purchase, Batty Langley had laid out rules governing a decorum for such sculptures. How far was Carlisle able to keep to such rules, how far was he willing to bend them? To what extent was the form of the English garden itself broken and remade at Castle Howard? To what extent was Baroque classicism reconstructed and transformed?