



HISTORIES OF BRITISH ART

1660-1735 RECONSTRUCTION AND TRANSFORMATION

ABSTRACT: ERIN GRIFFEY

Erin Griffey (University of Auckland)

‘The art of display at the court of Charles II’

Despite the wealth of scholarly literature on art at the court of Charles I, relatively little attention has focused on the acquisition and display of artworks at the Restoration court of his son, Charles II. Surviving inventories of Whitehall and Hampton Court of c.1666-7, which have never been rigorously analysed, offer insight into his taste and the deployment of artworks at his court. An understanding of how both Charles II's taste and ideas of display were informed by Charles I--not to mention the restitution of many of his paintings--is facilitated by a comparison with inventories of pictures of 1639 and 1649-51. This paper will explore these comparative aspects of Caroline taste and display using the author's database of pictures listed in Stuart inventories, the Index of Stuart Visual Culture. Comparisons will also be made with the post-mortem inventory of his mother, Henrietta Maria (1669).