



# HISTORIES OF BRITISH ART

## 1660-1735 RECONSTRUCTION AND TRANSFORMATION

### ABSTRACT: KAREN HEARN

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*Constructing Physical Perfection? Patches and Spots in late 17<sup>th</sup> Century British and Netherlandish Portraits*

In 1662, the author of *MISO-SPIIUS, A wonder or wonders, or, A metamorphosis of fair faces voluntarily transformed into foul visages or, an invective against black-spotted faces, by a well-willer to modest matrons and virgins*, published in London, claimed to be addressing ‘the young Ladies and Gentlewomen of the Society of Black-spotted faces, newly taken into the Fellowship of the Company of Painter-Stainers ...’.

This paper will examine evidence for the varying attitudes to the use of patches and ‘beauty spots’ in mid- and late- 17<sup>th</sup> century England, and will consider the differing approaches to be found in English and Dutch male and female portraits.

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