



# HISTORIES OF BRITISH ART

## 1660-1735 RECONSTRUCTION AND TRANSFORMATION

### ABSTRACT: SUSAN JENKINS

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‘Collecting patterns: artists from the court of Charles II in the collection at Audley End House’

The collection at Audley End House contains paintings by Charles II’s court artists including Sir Peter Lely, Sir Godfrey Kneller and John Michael Wright. These works, mainly portraits, were commissioned by members of the Griffin family and were not originally hanging at Audley End, but found their way into the collection by family descent.

This series of portraits has been integrated into a larger hang of paintings from different families. An examination of a selection of these works is part of an ongoing cataloguing project, which raises questions about the collecting and politics of the Griffin family. The quality of the works themselves suggests a patron who was close to court circles with a strong taste for the best artists of the day. Lely’s *Self Portrait with Sir Hugh May*; Kneller’s *Portrait of Mary Davis* and his *Portrait of Sir John Griffin Griffin* a series in the Order of Little Bedlam are among the best works of art of the period. Also to be considered amongst this group are two works by John Michael Wright, *Portrait of Judge Raynsford* and *Lady with a violin*.