# The Cumberland Art Gallery Audio Tour

# Hampton Court Palace

## Overview

Discover a changing display of some the greatest paintings from the Royal Collection.

## Stop 1 The Cumberland Art Gallery

### Narrator

Welcome to the Cumberland Art Gallery. Please find a suitable place to stand, to hear a brief introduction from Curator Brett Dolman.

### Brett Dolman

The Cumberland Art Gallery is where art takes centre stage at Hampton Court Palace. In these rooms you will find a changing display of some of the great paintings from the Royal Collection. Occasionally there may be other art works here too, as well as items from Historic Royal Palaces' own art collections relating to the history of Hampton Court. Hampton Court has always been full of great art, monarchs from Henry VIII all the way through to George II surrounded themselves with paintings, tapestries and sculpture for their own private pleasure or to impress their guests and the wider court with their magnificence, their wealth and their cultural sophistication.

Even when the royal family stopped using Hampton Court in the 18th century, the palace remained an art destination for tourists. They came to see masterpieces by artists like Mantegna, Holbein, Van Dyck and Rubens. But it was Charles I, back in the 17th Century, who really turned the royal collection into probably the most important private collection this country has ever seen, in terms of quality and quantity. Much of his collection was sold after the King himself had been defeated in the English Civil War but some was recovered and indeed has been added to by other great collectors like George IV and Queen Victoria.

The Cumberland Art Gallery is a small but rather exquisite treasure house of some of the great works of art collected and commissioned by kings and queens across five centuries of royal history. But there are hundreds more works of art at the palace, many still in their original royal locations.

If you are interested in art do visit the Mantegna gallery and also make sure you see Henry VIII’s Abraham tapestries in the Great Hall - the greatest treasure of the Tudor Court still in the Royal Collection today. But now you are here, do enjoy the Cumberland Art Gallery and perhaps discover your own favourite amongst its treasures.

### Narrator

The paintings on display in the gallery change regularly. Look out for the room folders where you can find out more about the paintings currently on display or ask one of our very knowledgeable State Apartment Warders to tell you more.

## [End of Tour]