

NICOLA GREEN

CURRICULUM VITAE

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BIOGRAPHY

Nicola Green is a critically acclaimed social historian and visual artist. Green has established an international reputation for her ambitious projects that can change perceptions about identity and power; exploring themes of race, spirituality, religion, gender, and leadership. Green has gained unprecedented access to iconic figures from the worlds of religion, politics, and culture, including collaborations with Pope Francis, President Obama, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dalai Lama.

Driven by her belief in the power of the visual image to communicate important human stories, Green chooses to assume the role of 'witness' to momentous occasions taking place across the globe. Inspired by her own mixed-heritage children and multi-faith family, she creates and preserves religious, social, and cultural heritage for future generations. Recording these events as they happen, and investing many hours of academic and artistic research, Green builds and curates substantial archives.

EDUCATION AND AWARDS

2014 - 2019 Annual Research & Development grant from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to fund work and research into ways of bringing important social issues to new audiences.

1998 Edinburgh College of Art, Masters of Fine Arts, First Class Distinction

1997 & 1998 Andrew Grant Bequest Scholarship

1996 Edinburgh College of Art, Bachelor of Arts, First Class Honours in Drawing and Painting

1996 Department for Education Scholarship

NOTABLE LECTURES

2019 [*Encounters: The Importance of Art in Creating and Preserving a Shared Religious Heritage*](#) Keynote speaker, Religious Heritage in a Diverse Europe at University of Groningen

2018 [*Encountering the Sacred*](#) with Neil Macgregor, former Director of the British Museum and Ben Okri, poet, at St Martin-in-the Fields, London

2013 [*In Conversation with Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks*](#) at The Jewish Museum, London

2013 [*In Seven Days: Art, Election and History*](#) panel discussion with Sir David Adjaye and The Honourable Tristram Hunt at Sir John Soane's Museum, London

2013 [*In Seven Days, Imprinting a Moment in History*](#) panel discussion with Sarah E Lewis and Matt Frei, at The British Council, Washington D.C.

NOTABLE MEDIA APPEARANCES

2018 [*The Colour Purple*](#) BBC Radio 4 Beyond Belief

2018 [*Encounters*](#) BBC Radio 2 Good Morning Sunday

2018 [*Global with Matthew Amroliwala*](#) BBC Worldwide

2018 [*Power and Political Portraiture*](#) BBC Newsnight

2017 [*Khadija Saye's Legacy*](#) Venice Biennale: Britain's New Voices BBC 2

2017 [*Khadija Saye's Legacy*](#) Front Row BBC Radio 4

2017 [*Venice Biennale: Britain's New Voices*](#) BBC 2

2017 [*Diaspora Pavilion*](#) BBC News

2016 [Blue has all kinds of meaning in Judaism](#) BBC Frontline
2013 [In Seven Days inside a Historic Campaign](#) BBC Radio 4
2013 [Election Project & In Seven Days... Front Row](#) BBC Radio 4
2005 *All in the Mind* BBC Radio 4
2004 *Emotional Rollercoaster* BBC Radio 4
2003 *Laugh Out Loud* BBC Radio 4

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2020 [In Seven Days...](#) Archive book, The Studio of Nicola Green
2018 [Encounters: The Art of Interfaith Dialogue](#) Art & Concept Nicola Green, Edited by Aaron Rosen, Brepols Publishers Belgium
2018 [Encounters](#) Booklet, The Studio of Nicola Green
2017 [Diaspora Pavilion](#) Catalogue, The Studio of Nicola Green
2016 [The Dance of Colour](#) Catalogue, The Studio of Nicola Green
2013 [In Seven Days...](#) Catalogue, The Studio of Nicola Green
2013 [A Tribute to Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks](#) Booklet, The Office of Rabbi Sacks

SELECTED MAJOR WORKS

[Encounters 2018](#)

Green's most recent project *Encounters* is a groundbreaking exhibition of over fifty portraits of the world's most prominent religious leaders. *Encounters* is a global story, unique in its depiction of the world's major religions together for the first time in art history and without hierarchy. *Encounters* depicts all of the world's major religions. Sitters include: Pope Francis, the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Pope Benedict XVI, Dr Mohammad Ali Shomali, former Grand Mufti of Egypt Ali Gomaa, emeritus Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji, and Chief Nosakhare Isekhure.

Encounters is a visual exploration of difference: how do people of different beliefs, or none, communicate and reconcile their strongly held and, sometimes, opposing views? How do we think about those we consider wholly 'other' to ourselves, and how does this shape our own identity?

Encounters is accompanied by the book *Encounters: The Art of Interfaith Dialogue* with essays by leading global scholars, theologians and art historians.

"*This (Encounters: The Art of Interfaith) is a unique contribution to inter-faith dialogue. We know we need to listen to each other, but we also need to learn to see each other. This is at the heart of Nicola Green's remarkable and visionary practice, and this inspiring book.*" Edmund de Waal OBE - Artist, Author, *The Hare With Amber Eyes*

"*Nicola Green is a testament of how artists can bring the best out of humanity, with emphasis here on the importance on inter-faith dialogue splendidly portrayed by her art. In a world plagued by misunderstanding, dialogue is needed more than ever; her work is a wonderful bridge crossing cultural divides.*" Saeb Eigner - Author, *Art of the Middle East*

[UK Diaspora Pavilion at 57th Venice Biennale 2017](#)

In 2016 Green co-founded the Diaspora Platform, an initiative designed to deliver mentoring and professional development for emerging artists and curators from racially and culturally diverse backgrounds. Green obtained unprecedented Arts Council funding for the ambitious project. It challenged the under-representation of artists and curators from minority backgrounds in the visual arts and culminated in the critically acclaimed Diaspora Pavilion at the 57th Venice Biennale 2017. The Diaspora Pavilion was an extraordinary success, gaining widespread UK and global media attention and attracting close to 500,000 visitors. It resulted in the UK and global art world focusing on ethnic diversity in arts.

"This is a pavilion created because artists of complex, multinational backgrounds - and black women artists, especially - find that the doors of high art are closed to them. When those who are marginalised and excluded create space for themselves in an environment that would otherwise be inhospitable to their persons and their work, the response is bewilderment at first, and then resistance." Al Jazeera

The Dance of Colour 2016

Green explored the meaning of mixed heritage identity and the complex culture of Brazil through the lens of Rio Carnival. The project encompassed two sets of works: *Carnival, Beat* and *Bate Bola*. Green mirrors a sense of freedom witnessed during the carnival, where everyday identities are subverted by imaginative temporary personas, and the lines between masculine, feminine, racial, social and sexual identity are blurred. Green carried out extensive research into the history of carnival, the dynamics of race and mixed-heritage in South America and the impact of slavery. *Bate Bola* was shown at the Diaspora Pavilion in 2017 at the 57th Venice Biennale.

In Seven Days...2010-2013

In 2008, Green gained unprecedented artistic access to **Barack Obama's** Presidential campaign. She had a front row seat to historic events, from Obama's DNC nomination speech in Denver to his inauguration in Washington, D.C. During this unique opportunity Green was behind-the-scenes taking photographs, making sketches, and having conversations with press, staff, citizens, as well as Obama himself. Because she was not focused on the media moment, but the legacy for her children, Green was able to establish a uniquely trusting relationship with Obama and capture personal and intimate moments. Upon her return to the UK, Green spent years researching, distilling and experimenting before completing a series of seven large silkscreen prints titled *In Seven Days...*

In Seven Days... is an invaluable resource for social history. It illuminates a time in contemporary American history characterised by unbridled optimism and the imperative for racial equality in the highest office of the nation. Green created a visual legacy of the Obama candidacy for posterity.

"An artistic and historic masterpiece." **The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York**

"The impetus to acquire Nicola Green's suite of prints, In Seven Days..., reflects both the National Portrait Gallery's historical commitment to collecting images of the most significant and influential members of American society, but also its dedication to building a collection more accurately representative of what it means to be an American, in our current moment and for the future. Adding In Seven Days...to the National Portrait Gallery collection is invaluable to the museum's ongoing mission to tell the entirety of American history." **The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington D.C.**

"The work, when I look at it, is not about the 2008 election, it's really about each individual's responsibility to history, to the furthering of history, and to looking at how far we've come and reflecting on what we had to overcome to arrive at this point, and to think about how much more we have to do to continue carrying on." **Katherine Blood, The Library of Congress, Washington D.C.**

Portrait of Tottenham 2009

Tottenham, in London, where Green lives and works, is one of the most multicultural areas in the world. Green worked with her local community to create a *Portrait of Tottenham*. This project was a continuation of Green's commitment to providing mentoring and social outreach programmes. *Portrait of Tottenham* was inspired by Green's extensive research on the 270 different languages spoken within this unique London borough. Her aim was to directly reflect the area's identity, diversity and difference in a meaningful way for its inhabitants and for the wider world.

House Slave - Field Slave 2007

House Slave - Field Slave was made in collaboration with Anti-Slavery International to commemorate the anniversary of the Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in the British Empire in 1807. This work explores the concept of contemporary slavery and the stories of the 12 million people still enslaved around the world in the 21st Century. The works were first exhibited at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London in 2007, and were then shown as part of Black History Month and Prince's Drawing Clubs at Bruce Castle Museum, London, in 2010. Green's works were accompanied by preparatory studies, as well as artefacts of contemporary slavery from the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool and extraordinary photos and text from Anti-Slavery International, which inspired this work. The triptych is now in the permanent collection at the International Slavery Museum, Liverpool.

NOTABLE PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

The Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Washington D.C.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

The Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

International Slavery Museum, Liverpool

Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

The Courtauld Institute of Art, London

Glenhurst Gallery of Brant, Canada

Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh

Sir John Soane's Museum, London

Jewish Museum, London

Paintings in Hospitals, UK

Bruce Castle Museum, London

Royal National College for the Blind, Hereford

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, Oxford

2018 St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London

2017 Candida Stevens Gallery, Chichester, Sussex

2016 Flowers Gallery, London

2015 Jealous Gallery, London

2014 Jewish Museum, London

2013 Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

2013 Soane Museum, London

2013 Australia House, London

2013 Flowers Gallery, London

2012 Stadium Suite, Cultural Olympiad, Olympic Park, London

2011 Library of Congress, Washington DC

2010 Harvard University, Boston

2010 Bruce Castle Museum, London

2007 Dulwich Picture Gallery, London

2005 Vinyl Factory, London

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2018 *Grayson Perry's Room of Fun* Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy, London

2018 *London Art Fair* Islington Design Centre, London

2017 *The Diaspora Pavilion* 57th Venice Biennale, Venice

2017 *Good Nature* Candida Stevens Gallery, Sussex

2016 *Icon* Candida Stevens Gallery, Chichester, Sussex

2015 *Small Is Beautiful* Flowers Gallery, London

2015 *Good Figures* Mall Galleries, London

2015 *Good Figures* The Downland Jerwood Gridshell Museum, Sussex

2014 *Small is Beautiful* Flowers Gallery, New York

2014 *The Discerning Eye* Mall Galleries, London

2014 *Local Reflections: Nelson Mandela and the Haringey Anti-Apartheid Movement* Bruce Castle, London

2013 *London Art Fair*, Business Design Centre, London
2013 *Art, Election and History* Flowers, London
2013 *Recent Prints* Flowers, London
2013 *Small is Beautiful* Flowers, London
2013 *Multiplied* Christie's, London
2013 *Pulse Contemporary Art Fair* New York
2013 *The London Print Fair* Royal Academy, London
2012 *BlindArt* Moorfield Hospital, London
2012 *Cultural Olympiad* Haringey, London
2012 *Pellafort Press*, London
2011 *BlindArt* Banbury Museum, Banbury
2010 *Inspired by Soane* The Soane Museum, London
2010 *Touching Art Touching You* Hove Museum & Art Gallery, Brighton
2010 *East Wing Collection* The Courtauld Institute, London
2009 *Permanent Collection* Royal College for the Blind, Hereford
2008 *BlindArt* Museum of Modern Art, Wales
2008 *BP Portrait Award* exhibited at: National Portrait Gallery, London; Wolverhampton Art Gallery; Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museum; Aberystwyth Arts Centre
2008 *A Sense of Space: The Blind Culture* exhibited at: McIntosh Gallery, Western University, Ontario; Glenhurst Gallery of Brant, Canada
2008 *Touching Art Touching You* Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro
2008 *On Time* The Courtauld Institute, London
2007 *Permanent Collection* Ontario Glenhyrst Gallery of Brant, Canada
2007 *Boundless* Menier Chocolate Gallery and Southwark Council, London
2006 *BP Portrait Award* exhibited at: National Portrait Gallery, London; Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museum; Royal West of England Academy, Bristol
2006 *Blind Art USA* exhibited at: National Public Library for the Blind, New York; British Embassy, Washington D.C.
2006 *Shoes - The Agony & Ecstasy* exhibited at: Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead; Norwich Castle Museum; Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford; Tully House Museum, Carlisle
2005 *Portraits 2005* Arndean Gallery, London
2005 *BlindArt* Royal College of Arts, London
2004 *New Sound New York, The Kitchen Venue*, New York
2004 Winchester Festival of Art & the Mind, Winchester;
2004 *Retrospective* 291 Gallery, London
2003 *A Laughing Portrait* exhibited at: Cork Arts Festival, Ireland; Port Eliot Literary Festival Cornwall; Royal Brompton Hospital, London; Your Shout Awards Winchester

INSTITUTIONAL ROLES

2018 - Present Founder and Director Khadija Saye IntoArts Programme
2014 - 2017 Founder and Director UK Diaspora Pavilion
2014 - 2016 Royal Academy Benjamin West Group, *Board Member*
2014 ING Discerning Eye Exhibition, *Judge*
2008 - 2014 Prince's Drawing Schools, *Patron*
2006 - 2014 Paintings in Hospitals, *Trustee*
2002 - 2006 Edinburgh College of Arts Alumni Council, *Board Member*

MENTORING & WORKSHOPS

For 20 years Green has been mentoring and supporting young people from non-traditional backgrounds, and children with learning difficulties and Special Educational Needs.

1998 - Present Tutor with [Osborne Cawkwell](#) teaching young people excluded from mainstream education and/or with Learning Difficulties or Special Educational Needs wanting to pursue the arts. Tutoring GCSE art, A-Level art and Foundation/Art College entrance with a hundred per cent success rate for exams and admissions, running sessions and workshops from her studio as well as at Greater London Schools.

2000 - Present Mentoring young people of all levels and career stages in Tottenham working with: Elena Pippou, cultural officer at [Haringey Libraries](#) and in collaboration with Haringey secondary schools; partnership with Stamford Hill Primary school and the [Cultural Olympiad](#); [Bruce Castle Museum](#) in collaboration with Haringey primary and secondary schools.

Green has worked with children across the UK and USA as a leader of identity and art workshops with students from local schools working in collaboration with institutions including: Dulwich Picture Gallery; International Slavery Museum, Liverpool; Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; Anti-Slavery International; Prince's Drawing Schools; Sir John Soane's Museum, London; Harvard University, Boston; Library of Congress, Washington DC.

2003 - Present Green has mentored many aspiring artists in her studio, not only teaching practical skills, but also the tools necessary for a successful career in the arts. This culminated in the professional mentoring programmes of the [Diaspora Platform](#) the 2015 Venice Biennale and with Arts Council England at [2017 Venice Biennale](#).

Green mentored the late [Khadija Saye](#) who tragically died in the Grenfell Tower fire. Nicola had mentored Khadija for three years from 2014, during which time Khadija worked as an assistant in Green's studio. Green co-curated the two exhibitions in which she exhibited - [Discerning Eye 2014](#) and [Diaspora Pavilion 2017](#). Nicola established [The Khadija Saye IntoArts Programme](#), encouraging young people into Higher Education at IntoUniversity centres across the UK.

2012 Olympic Workshops Because the London Olympic bid was won chiefly on the story of multicultural London, Green initiated workshops with underprivileged racially diverse children in North and East London. Students explored what their sporting and football heroes meant to them and how excelling in sport could motivate them.

PHILANTHROPY

Over her career, Green has donated hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of art to charities including:

2015 & 2017 The Human Rights Watch Annual Auction

2017 Grassroots Soccer, Worlds AIDS Day Gala

2016 Face Value, Katie Piper Foundation

2015 Paintings in Hospitals Auction

2014 Labour Fundraising Auction

2013 Barbican Art Gallery

2010 BlindArt, Permanent Collection

SELECTED PRESS

23/09/2018 [Faith: how talks between the Dalai Lama and the archbishop of Canterbury inspired artist Nicola Green's new exhibition](#) Stephen Armstrong, *The Sunday Times*

22/09/2018 [An Artist Creates Faceless Portraits of Dalai Lama and Others](#) *Tibetan Journal*

20/09/2018 [Rabbi Lord Sacks 'honoured' to be featured in art exhibition with faith leaders](#) *Jewish News*

19/09/2018 [Faces of Faith](#) Joanna Moorhead, *The Catholic Tablet*

17/09/2018 [Artist says faceless portraits of faith leaders is a comment on celebrity status](#) *Press Association*

25/02/2018 [Stations of the Cross](#) Victoria Emily Jones, *Art & Theology*

05/02/2018 [The Diaspora pavilion—a hit at last year’s Venice Biennale—is reborn in Wolverhampton](#) Gareth Harris, *The Art Newspaper*

21/05/2017 [Art review: Venice Biennale](#) Waldemar Januszczak, *The Times*

20/05/2017 [Black Presences at the Venice Biennale](#) M Neelika Jayawardane, *Al Jazeera*

16/05/2017 *Around Town: Venice* Matthew Mclean, *Frieze*

12/05/2018 [The Weight of History in Venice](#) Helmi Yusof, *Business Times*

09/05/2017 [A Series of Rogue Pavilions Wrestles with the Venice Biennale’s National Structure](#) Hettie Judah, *ArtNet*

03/05/2017 [Hans Ulrich Obrist’s Venice](#) *Sotheby’s*

24/05/2016 [Artist Nicola Green on painting Obama, Elle Macpherson and her new exhibition The Dance of Colour](#) Pippa Cerar, *Evening Standard*

22/05/2016 [How it feels to...dance at Rio Carnival](#) *The Sunday Times*

20/11/2015 [Nicola Green: A Selection of Work](#) *Wall Street International*

15/02/2013 [Hope, Change and Struggle: An Artist’s View of the 2008 Presidential Campaign](#) *Time Magazine*

15/02/2013 [And on the seventh day. . .](#) Simon Jenkins, *The Church Times*

17/01/2013 [Barack Obama exhibition offers ‘deconstruction of hope’](#) Mark Brown, *The Guardian*

29/12/2013 [How we met: Nicola Green & Elle Macpherson](#) Adam Jacques, *The Independent*

08/11/2012 [Obama Art: Our Favorite Portraits Of The President](#) *The Huffington Post*

29/04/2012 [Emotional ties with writer and director Hannah Rothschild](#) Clare Geraghty, *Mail on Sunday*

28/09/2011 [Library Receives Gift of Artwork by Nicola Green](#) *The Library of Congress*

16/11/2010 [Democracy Goes Green](#) Vivian W. Leung, *The Harvard Crimson*

02/11/2010 [Campaign trailer](#) Laura Collins-Hughes, *The Boston Globe*

ENDORSEMENTS

“It is my hope that Nicola’s artwork will spawn a sense of great hope in its onlookers, and serve as a reminder of all that is possible when we presume the inherent goodness in one another and work in common effort.”

Barack Obama - President of the United States of America

“I would like to commend Nicola Green on her initiatives to promote religious harmony. Like her, I, too, believe that today’s leaders of various religious traditions are becoming more aware of the need for peaceful co-existence. I am confident that with more religious leaders actively involved in promoting religious harmony, we can all help in making this world a better place for everyone.”

H.H. The Dalai Lama

“Green’s work cannot be confined by a category or as a cliché but lived as a working philosophy.”

David A. Bailey MBE

“Nicola Green has created a concept and series of artworks of major historical significance. This book is an invaluable visual record of interfaith dialogue for future generations.”

Tristram Hunt -Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum

“Nicola Green has an unusually full and varied experience of reflecting through her art on people who are associated with power of one kind or another, having shadowed Barack Obama on the election trail and produced a powerful set of images that open up the viewer’s reflection on his extraordinary profile and career.”

Rowan Williams - Former Archbishop of Canterbury