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Ralph Heimans' glorious portraits 20 March 2024 | By Genevieve Jacobs

Princes, potentates and politicians shine in

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artist Ralph Heimans studied pure maths and fine arts at the same time.

barriers she broke as Australia's first female Governor-General.

– are precise, detailed, finely balanced and very, very beautiful.

Moodily lit like the Renaissance portraits they echo, the images of princes,

His paintings – now on show at the National Portrait Gallery in a major exhibition

It's a minor but important detail to know that as a university student, portrait

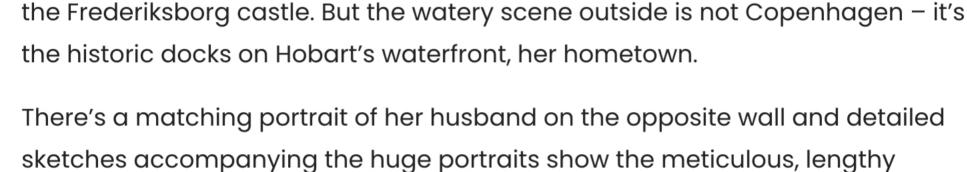
politicians and potentates of all kinds glow against dark walls, and each one has a hidden story.

Dame Quentin Bryce emerges from a shimmering wall of glass – an accurate

representation of her offices at Government House but also a metaphor for the

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The Princess Mary of Denmark pulls on her gloves in slanting afternoon light at



explicitly enters the world of memory.

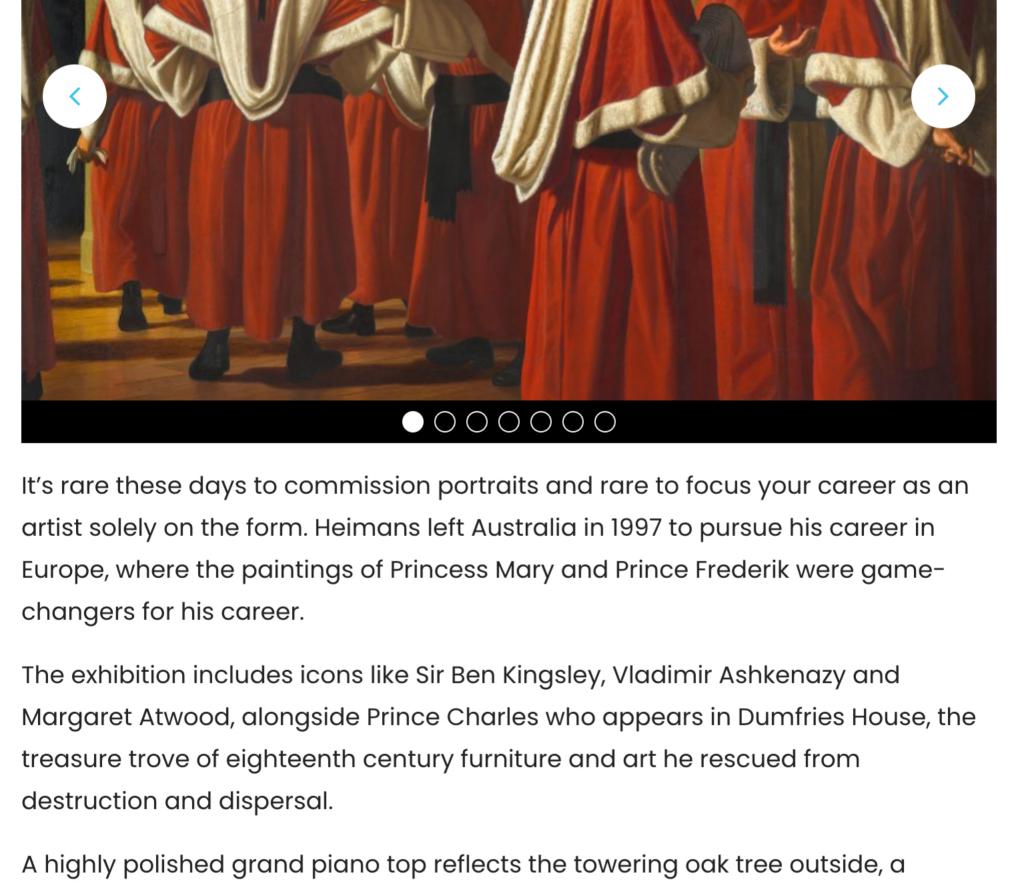
discovering Ralph," she told Region.

Amid the cultural icons, prime ministers and High Court judges are portraits of the Pratt family and legendary bookmaker Bill Waterhouse, whose family was among the first to commission an Australian portrait of their beloved (and controversial father), his daughter Louise said at the exhibition launch.

"We knew we didn't want something ordinary, and we like to credit ourselves with

process of developing a painting that does more than recall a face – in the case

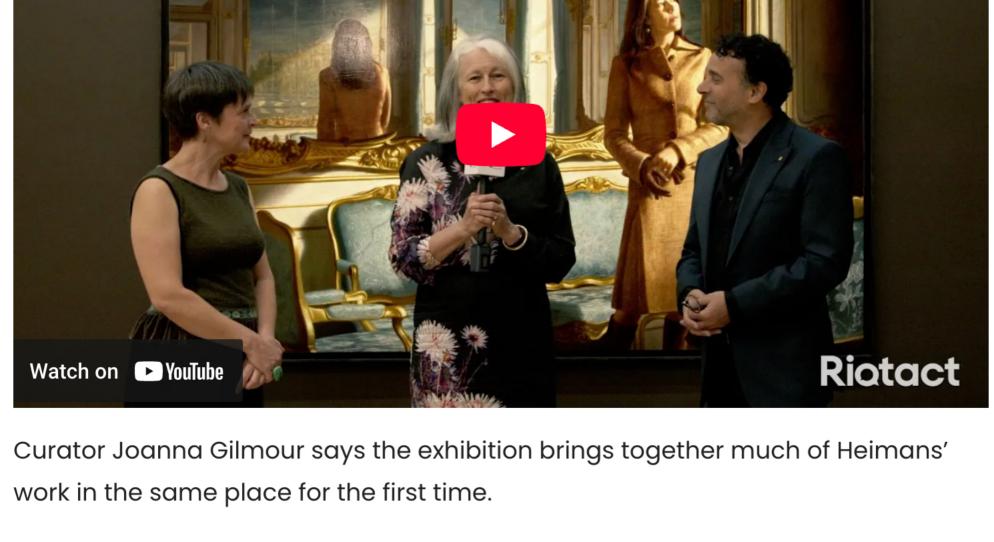
of Dame Judi Dench, posed against the stage curtain where she's spent her life, it



Ralph Heimans' 'Portraiture. Power. Influence.' Exhibition at t... Watch later Share

symbol of his commitment to enduring British craft and artisanship. Heimans

also painted the late Queen, whose portrait now hangs permanently in



"The National Portrait Gallery holds four portraits by Ralph Heimans in its collection," she says.

"This exhibition will offer audiences an insight not only into Heimans' skill as an artist but consider his position in the centuries old tradition of Western portraiture."

Ralph Heimans: Portraiture. Power. Influence is at the <u>National Portrait Gallery</u> until

27 May.

Westminster Abbey.