

## **Introduction**

### **Katherine Dunleavy, National Partners Programme Coordinator at The Courtauld**

Courtauld Connections: Work from our National Partners is a unique celebration of the many projects and special relationships we have developed with partners and communities across the UK over the past 5 years. The Courtauld National Partners Programme has enabled The Courtauld to form enduring connections to towns and cities historically connected to us through Samuel Courtauld, who was both a founder of The Courtauld and the chairman of Courtaulds Limited, a textile company that left a lasting legacy in the areas we have partnered with.

Working with our partners in galleries and museums we have opened 11 major exhibitions with more than 40 works on loan from The Courtauld's collection, so that people outside of London have the chance to visit them, and in some cases they have even voted to select a painting for display.

But here, in our Project Space galleries at The Courtauld, we bring together spectacular works of art from our partners' collections for the first time. We have worked closely with our colleagues to select examples that demonstrate the strengths of each collection, and some of the favourites of their local visitors too. We hope you will enjoy hearing directly from our partners about why each work is so important to them and their communities in this audio guide.

It has been wonderful to share significant pieces from our collection with a new and diverse range of people through our loans, but Courtauld National Partners has also been a process of working with partners and communities to learn together, to better understand our shared heritage, and to develop skills that build local legacies.

In our People and Places programme we have been inspired and humbled by the generosity of volunteers and former Courtaulds Limited employees who have helped us to build a bank of valuable information about industrial heritage, they have uncovered and recorded many new or overlooked stories, especially those of women, migrants and workers.

In our schools programme, we have seen young people respond creatively and enthusiastically to complex issues around identity, heritage and place, often through a lens of art-history. You can see some of the fantastic designs and art works they have produced on our website, and even on products in our shop.

We hope you will take some time to explore some of these projects in this app, alongside your visit to the exhibition.

We have very much enjoyed working with such a diverse range of partners, each with their own unique history, collection, and approach to working with their visitors and communities, and we have learnt much from them. We hope this exhibition provides a snapshot of what makes each partner and place so special.