

# Government Art Collection: Selected by Cornelia Parker: Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain

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This display offers an original and personal selection from the Collection by artist **Cornelia Parker**.

Parker's work often explores ideas of collecting: how do we collect, sort and categorise things? In this display she uses 'Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain', the well-known phrase used to remember the colours of the rainbow, as a way to select from over 13,500 works in the Collection.

She has chosen more than 70 works across the colour spectrum to create a kaleidoscopic effect around the gallery. From the red draperies in **Daniel Mytens'** portrait of *Lady Anne Montagu* (1626) to the yellow of **Martin Creed's** neon sculpture *Work No. 253: THINGS* (2000), and from **David Batchelor's** vivid *Shelf-like No. 5 (Green)* (1999) to the royal blue background in **Andy Warhol's** portrait of *Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom* (1985), works are hung from floor to ceiling according to colour.

The display produces some curious juxtapositions of form and subject matter. It brings together historical works, the earliest being *King Henry VI* (c. 1530), and contemporary works such as **John Riddy's** *London (Garrick)* (2008) which also features a salon-style hang like Parker's installation.

The Government Art Collection of British art is usually on display in more than 400 locations all over the globe, and includes paintings, sculptures and other works of art from the 16th century to the present day. This display is a collaboration between the Government Art Collection and the Whitechapel Gallery. It is part of the Whitechapel Gallery's ongoing programme opening up important public and private collections for everyone.

This is a QR code, please use the QR reader on your smart phone to photograph it to see more images, video and more information about the exhibition, or visit:  
[whitechapelgallery.org/exhibitions/government-art-collection](http://whitechapelgallery.org/exhibitions/government-art-collection)



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Programme is supported by: