

# *The Portraits*



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XVIII century

**The portrait of this epoch  
famous for its realism,  
brightness and  
expressiveness.**

# William Hogarth

(1697-1764)

**W. Hogarth was the first major artist to reject the foreign influence and establish a kind of art whose themes and subjects were thoroughly British.**







**The Shrimp Girl,  
1740-1743, oil on  
canvas, National  
Gallery, London, UK**

**Captain Thomas  
Coram, 1740,  
oil on canvas,  
Thomas Coram  
Foundation for  
Children, London, UK**







**The Graham  
Children, 1742,  
oil on canvas  
the Gallery, London,  
UK**

# Joshua Reynolds

(1723-1793)

**Reynolds was born at Plymton. He broke the rules and showed in his practice that the portrait could and should be also a full complex work of art on many levels. For him each model was not just a physical fact to be depicted but rather a story to be told.**







**Sarah Siddons as the  
Tragic Muse, 1783-84,  
Oil on canvas,  
Henry E. Huntington  
Art Gallery, San  
Marino, CA, USA.**

# Thomas Gainsborough

(1727-1788)

**Contrasts of light and shade with flowing and broken lines produce an impression of animation and mobility which is characteristic of Gainsborough.**







**Robert Andrews and His Wife Frances, about 1748-49,  
oil on canvas, National Gallery, London, UK**

**Mrs. Sarah  
Siddons, 1785,  
oil on canvas,  
National Gallery,  
London, UK**





# The comparative characteristic



Sir J. Reynolds



T. Gainsborough



The methods of the two painters are sufficiently indicated by their respective treatment of Mrs. Siddons.

"Sara Siddons" by Sir J. Reynolds is represented in the form of a muse of tragedy.

"A portrait of actress Sara Siddons" by T. Gainsborough. The artist has underlined intelligence of a young woman.

