



### CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY

On 10 May, the National Gallery will be 200 years old, and their Bicentenary celebration will commence. It will be a year-long festival of art, creativity and imagination, marking two centuries of bringing people and paintings together.



*Eva Gonzalès, about 1869-70.*

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The National Gallery is inviting everyone to join the celebration as part of an ambitious programme of events and exhibitions that extends from the Gallery into Trafalgar Square, across the nation and to the world, through a series of online and virtual experiences. From seeing a beloved painting in a totally new context at your local museum or gallery, to a virtual dive into the questions of how and why a National Gallery was created, everyone can find new ways to connect with art.

Celebrations will begin with a Big Birthday Weekend, a free birthday party from 10 to 12 May. Building on the Gallery's Friday Lates programmes of workshops, music performances, and new ways of seeing the collection, Jools Holland will perform in the Rausing Room as part of a curated programme with musical friends and performances spanning the whole Gallery. Outside on Trafalgar Square, a light show featuring projections of paintings from the Gallery and the story of its history will illuminate the building's façade, programmed in partnership with NVisible.

Over the course of the weekend, the Gallery will put the spotlight on family visitors, with the making of a creative 'birthday cake' at the centre. Created by artist Lucie MacGregor, visitors can add to the cake with their own paper creations piece by piece.

There are still plenty of ways to celebrate your National Gallery in the heart of London after the big birthday weekend. Amazing free exhibitions *The Last Caravaggio* (until 21 July) and *Discover Degas & Miss La La* (6 June to 1 September), cast a close spotlight on a single painting from the Gallery's collection.

Expect the Gallery's permanent collection to grow this year, too – they have just acquired and put on display their first painting by the French Impressionist painter Eva Gonzalès (*below left*).



*Jools Holland*

© Michael Leckie

Just as it was 200 years ago, the Gallery's collection is free to enter, for everyone. Further information on the National Gallery Bicentenary celebrations and to book for events, visit the website [www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)