



THE ARTIST IN QUESTION

VAN DYCK

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER OR THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER

Anthony van Dyck (1577-1640) has been reborn in British cultural news, as the Los Angeles-based British billionaire James Stunt withdraws his purchase of van Dyck's superb self-portrait at the National Portrait Gallery after strong public objection. London art dealer Philip Mould comments, 'Watching the public reaction to Van Dyck's self-portrait develop in this unprecedented way has been reassuring...for many the thought of it going to the United States would be like losing a chunk of Stonehenge'. With the support of more than 8000 contributions from members of the public, on the 1st May the portrait was saved for the National Portrait Gallery. Its creator was a child prodigy, who by the age of fifteen had set up his own workshop in Antwerp with an even younger colleague, Jan Brueghel the Younger. Peter Paul Rubens' "best pupil", he became his chief assistant before moving to Italy, perhaps to distance himself and create his own stage. There he studied Greek and Roman sculpture and Italian painters, especially Titian, supporting himself by painting grand portraits of Genoese nobility. Summoned to England by Charles I, he became his Court Painter. His portraits of the King, his family and court painted with brilliant brushstrokes, a graceful arrangement of figures, and a virtuosic display of textiles and drapery incalculably influenced English portrait painting for at least the next 150 years.

MEET 10:30 am coffee for 11 am lecture at the Art Workers' Guild
ENDS 3:30 Art Workers' Guild
COST £85 members, £95 non-members, including coffee, light lunch with wine