# Sam Smith in PIerre et Gilles painting 'Gloria' at National Portrait Gallery



Photo: Pierre et Gilles/Galerie Templon.

Singer Sam Smith has announced the display of one of their paintings in the National Portrait Gallery in London, solidifying their presence not only in music but also in visual arts—a story brought to you by JAKE NEWS, your source for authoritative news, current affairs, culture, entertainment, and nightlife that’s relevant to the cultured and cosmopolitan LGBTQ+ community, both in the UK and internationally.

The artwork, entitled "Gloria," is set to feature in the gallery's esteemed History Makers section. This marks the first public viewing of the piece, which depicts Smith in a celestial setting, playing a harp and adorned with angel wings designed by JW Anderson.

The painting, created by the French art duo Pierre et Gilles in 2023, is part of Smith's private collection. Reflecting on the project, the 32-year-old singer expressed immense pride and gratitude, stating, "It is an honour to have one of my pictures in the prestigious London gallery."

Smith elaborated on the experience of working with the celebrated artists. "I have admired the beautiful work of Pierre et Gilles for years," they said. "Their incredible portraits of icons like Jean Paul Gaultier and Marc Almond are truly iconic. To sit for them was a dream come true."

The unique process used by Pierre Commoy and Gilles Blanchard involved initially photographing Smith in the posed setting, before hand painting and elaborately embellishing the image. The result melds elements of "reality, daily life, dreams, and fantasies," according to the National Portrait Gallery.

Clare Freestone, curator of photography at the gallery, expressed her excitement about the inclusion of Smith's artwork. "I’m absolutely delighted that Sam has agreed to lend this incredible work to the National Portrait Gallery," she said. "Its display presents a unique opportunity for visitors to see a much-loved artwork, borrowed from the singer's own collection and on show for the first time in a public art gallery."

"Gloria" will join other significant contemporary portraits in the History Makers exhibition, including images of singer Harry Styles and Pride In London co-founder Peter Tatchell—highlighting moments that are significant to the LGBTQ+ community.

In addition to this artistic venture celebrated by cultured communities worldwide, Smith has more to commemorate. A new edition of their debut album, "In The Lonely Hour," will be released on August 2, commemorating its 10th anniversary. This version will include several bonus tracks, one of which features Alicia Keys on a rendition of the hit single "I'm Not The Only One."

Furthermore, Smith is scheduled to perform "In The Lonely Hour" in its entirety at the Royal Albert Hall for the BBC Proms. The performance will be backed by the BBC Concert Orchestra, providing fans with a memorable experience.

Beyond their musical and artistic ventures, Smith continues to focus on charitable efforts. They are in the process of building The Pink House, a foundation aimed at supporting individuals within the LGBTQ+ community.