

**Felicity - Platinum Queen**  
**by Rob Munday, 2022**



*On 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Royal artist Rob Munday  
unveiled a new portrait of Her Majesty the Queen  
to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.*



## Biography.

For a full biography please see <http://www.rob-munday.com/about.html>

After graduating in with a BA(Hons.) in 1984, Rob became one of the UK's first generation of holographers and is now recognised as one of the world's leading holographic artists. He is also one of the only artists in the world to specialise in holographic portraiture. His sitters include Her Majesty the Queen, film actress and UN ambassador Angelina Jolie and fashion designers Karl Lagerfeld and Valentino. Rob's light sculpture hologram and lenticular artworks, featuring natural subjects and which explore the nature of reality, can be found in art collections and galleries throughout the world.

## Portrait of Queen Elizabeth II for The Jersey Heritage Trust, 2003/2004

In 2003 Rob was commissioned to create a three-dimensional holographic portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, and in doing so, became the first ever Royal holographer. The portrait, commissioned by The Jersey Heritage Trust to commemorate the Island of Jersey's 800-year allegiance to the English throne, was the first ever officially commissioned holographic-stereographic portrait of Her Majesty the Queen. The final commissioned work, known as Equanimity, was created under a joint creative collaboration between himself, and graphic designer, now artist, Chris Levine and they are co-authors of the work.



*Queen Elizabeth II - Equanimity*

*by Rob Munday and Chris Levine for the Jersey Heritage Trust, 2004.*

In addition to this jointly created work, both Rob Munday and Chris Levine have published works independently.

In February 2004, Rob Munday created the first ever holographic portrait of any kind of Her Majesty the Queen and the world's first holographic portrait miniature at his studio in Richmond-Upon-Thames, London.



*Left: Rob Munday discusses his holographic works with the Queen.  
 Middle: The first ever holographic portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and first ever holographic portrait miniature.  
 Right: Rob Munday showing his hologram portrait to the Queen at the second sitting.*

In 2011, Rob Munday was approached by The Jersey Heritage Trust, The States of Jersey and The Jersey Post to independently design, create and produce the world’s first postage stamp to contain a holographic portrait of a Head of State and the first to feature a black and white ‘achromatic’ hologram. The stamp, along with the world’s first £100 banknote, which also featured the portrait, was commissioned to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. In 2012, Rob’s portrait also appeared on TIME Magazine’s Diamond Jubilee cover



In 2013, Rob created the world’s first 24 carat gold holographic portrait miniature for the Royal Miniature Society’s prestigious annual exhibition. It was described by both Elizabeth Meek MBE, the President of the Royal Miniature Society, and the Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo, the Chairman of the Federation of British Artists, as ‘extraordinary and spellbinding’ and ‘the future of portrait miniatures.

In 2012, Rob produced the world’s first large-format digital reflection hologram of the portrait which was on display in the exhibition entitled *Jeweled Net: Views of Contemporary Holography*, at MIT, Boston, USA, for four years.

**Felicity - Platinum Queen, by Rob Munday, 2022**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, Rob unveiled a new and, until that moment, unseen portrait of Her Majesty the Queen. The portrait, which shows the queen smiling, has been named *Felicity - Platinum Queen* and is also dedicated to the 20 years of friendship between The Queen and her closest aide, dresser, and friend Angela Kelly.

### ***The story behind this portrait and reason for its name Felicity***

During the second sitting in 2004, the Queen was directed to sit in the chair that had been accurately positioned by holographer and artist Rob Munday in front of the 3D camera system that he had purposely designed and built to create the portrait. This photograph shows Rob sitting in the chair within his temporary studio that he built in the Yellow Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace over a three-day period prior to the sitting.



Upon sitting in the chair, the Queen's closest aide, dresser and long-term friend, Angela Kelly, came over to arrange the Queen's cloak. Whilst doing so, Angela Kelly whispered something amusing in the Queen's ear and the Queen smiled. At that precise moment, just prior to the commencement of the official shoot, Rob recorded a short one-second/thirty-frame video sequence, checking the usual creative variables of focus, exposure, lighting, and composition, and in doing so captured an incredible and unscripted moment of felicity. It is rare that official portraits show the Queen smiling and even rarer to see such a natural and unposed moment of joyfulness. The twinkle in the Queen's eye, the almost quizzical look, shows the deep bond of trust that the Queen had with her long-term friend and dresser, Angela Kelly. Angela Kelly was a point of stability in the Queen's life and was very pleased and touched that Rob dedicated the portrait to her unique friendship with Her Majesty the Queen.

One comment from thousands of complimentary comments posted on social media, and which Rob feels sums up the portrait was: 'Her facial expression shows a depth in her personality that reaches back to the days of her youth when the enormous weight of wearing the crown of England was not yet realised', P.A. McCandless. Another, and very interesting phrase very often used when commenting on the portrait is 'the Queen looks normal!'. Many have said that the portrait captures the essence of the Queen's personality perhaps like no other.

Technical notes: The image was shot using a Dalsa machine vision camera which, at this time, was one of the highest-resolution and fastest video cameras in the world. The camera was able to capture 30 frames per second with an image resolution of 1,200 x 1,600 pixels and output the frames in real time to a computer hard drive. Only two such cameras existed in the world, and Rob

had them both for the shoot. Rob chose to use a video camera in order to take the sequence of parallax images needed for the hologram as quickly as possible.

Full details together with a concise and accurate account of the project can be found on Rob's website at [www.rob-munday.com](http://www.rob-munday.com).

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