

Portraits
of
Queen Elizabeth II



Rob Munday

Equanimity, 2004

By Rob Munday & Chris Levine



ARTIST STATEMENT:

In 2003, artist and holographer Rob Munday was commissioned to shoot and create the first-ever officially commissioned 3D holographic portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and, in doing so, became the first Royal holographer. The project was conducted as a creative collaboration between himself and graphic designer, now artist, Chris Levine for the Jersey Heritage Trust, to commemorate the Island of Jersey's 800-year allegiance to the English throne. Two sittings took place, on the 14th November 2003 and the 24th March 2004. Thirty-eight portraits were shot over the two sittings, one of which was chosen by Rob Munday and Chris Levine to be the final commissioned work. Named *Equanimity*, a large-format lenticular stereogram, made at Rob Munday's creative holography studio in Richmond-upon-Thames, London, currently hangs in Jersey's Mont Orgueil Castle.

Rob stated: 'Whilst the commission called for a stately and elegant portrait, my objective was to create a starkly realistic portrait, in a manner never-before-seen in Royal portraiture, and in the style of my other holographic portraits. I chose a simple composition, with the Queen facing forwards in front of a plain black background, in order to emphasise her presence and life-force such that, when looking into her eyes, viewers would have an intimate feeling of meeting and of knowing her. I also wished to create a work that would preserve this essence of entity for posterity. I think I achieved these ambitions.'

In 2012, to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, *Equanimity* took pride of place in the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition *The Queen Art and Image* and was voted by the visiting public as their favourite portrait in the museum. Curator Paul Moorehouse described it as one of the most iconic portraits of the Queen ever created. The portrait was also chosen for the hallowed front cover of *TIME Magazine* and adorned both the world's first £100 bank note and the world's first postage stamp to contain a 3D hologram of a head of state. Rob Munday was independently commissioned by the *Jersey Post*/The States of Jersey for the latter.

In 2022, *Equanimity* was selected by numerous organisations and individuals to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and to commemorate her passing including The National Portrait Gallery, for the cover of its Platinum Jubilee commemorative book entitled *Elizabeth II Princess, Queen, Icon, Historic Royal Palaces* to represent its seminal exhibition entitled *Life Through a Royal Lens*, and the BBC for its official obituary.

Felicity – Platinum Queen, 2022

By Rob Munday



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At the beginning of the second sitting, just prior to the commencement of the official shoot, the Queen's closest aide, dresser and long-term friend, Angela Kelly, came over to arrange the Queen's cloak. Whilst doing so, she whispered something amusing in the Queen's ear and the Queen smiled. Rob Munday, who was busy checking his exposure, focus, lighting, and composition, hastily recorded a short one-second - thirty-frame video sequence and in doing so captured this remarkable 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. The twinkle in the Queen's eye, the almost quizzical look, conveys the deep bond of trust that the Queen had with her long-term friend and dresser, Angela Kelly. Rob Munday unveiled his new portrait to the press on the 4th May 2022 at 45 Park Lane, The Dorchester, to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Angela Kelly, a point of stability in the Queen's life for over 20 years, was very pleased and touched to find that Rob Munday had also dedicated his portrait to her and her wonderful friendship with Her Majesty the Queen.

For three months from June 2022, The Royal Society of the Arts, whose patron was the Queen, celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by exhibiting *Felicity - Platinum Queen*, alongside *Equanimity*, at their headquarters in London, and for the November/December 2022 issue of their world-renowned journal, *The Royal Photographic Society*, whose patron was Her Majesty the Queen, together with senior curator Dr Sophie Gordon, former Head of Photographs at the Royal Collection, the Royal Library and Windsor Castle, selected Rob Munday's portrait *Felicity - Platinum Queen* alongside only ten other portraits by just seven other photographers to represent the Queen's life in their very special and only tribute to Her Majesty the Queen.

Queen Elizabeth II – hologram miniature, 2004

By Rob Munday



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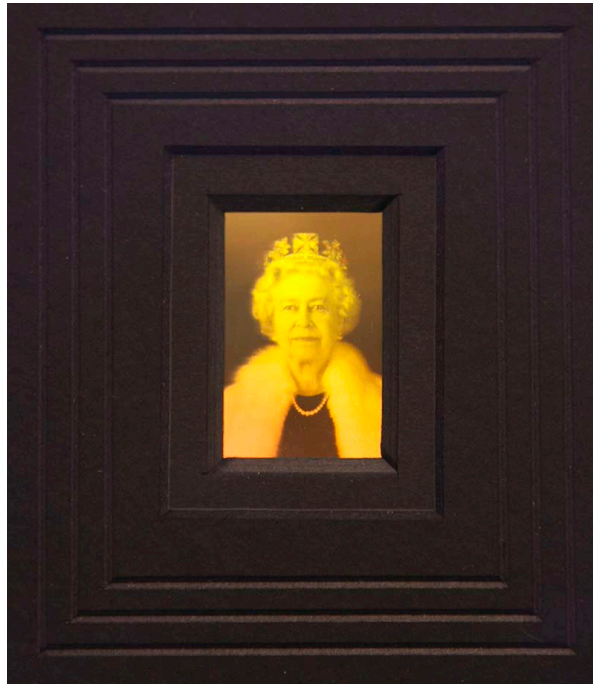
In February 2004, between the two sittings, Rob Munday created the first ever holographic portrait of any kind of Her Majesty the Queen and the world's first holographic portrait miniature at his studio in Richmond-upon-Thames, choosing one of the eighteen image sequences that he shot during the first sitting.

Rob Munday created the original master holographic stereogram using his unique Lightgate digital hologram mastering system and 3D digital hologram technique, both of which he had invented in 1997 and for which he received the coveted International Hologram Manufacturers Association 'Excellence in Holography' award for Best New Technique in the year 2000. The master hologram was then used to produce a nickel metal copy. The portrait, the first ever hologram portrait miniature, was shown to the Queen by Rob Munday prior to the second sitting in 2004. The Queen was suitably impressed.

This portrait was seen for only the second time at Rob Munday's solo show at The Little Back Gallery, London in 2017.

Queen Elizabeth II - gold hologram miniature, 2012

By Rob Munday



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In 2005, The Jersey Heritage Trust asked Rob Munday to independently create a second holographic portrait miniature for presentation to entities such as The Royal Mail and The Bank of England, in the hope of encouraging it's use for banknotes and stamps. This would be the world's second portrait miniature.

In December 2005, Rob Munday chose one of the twenty image sequences that he had shot at the second sitting and created an original master holographic stereogram using his unique Lightgate digital hologram mastering system and 3D digital hologram technique, both of which he had invented in 1997, and for which he received a coveted International Hologram Manufacturers Association 'Excellence in Holography' award for Best New Technique in the year 2000. This master hologram was then used to produce several nickel metal copies in February 2006.

This second portrait miniature was the first in the world to utilise the 'achromatic' technique, providing for a black and white digital hologram, again, uniquely developed by Rob Munday.

In 2013, Rob Munday was invited to show this portrait miniature at The Royal Miniature Society's prestigious annual exhibition in The Mall Galleries, London. Rob Munday chose to gold plate the hologram, thus creating the world's first 24c gold hologram portrait miniature. The portrait was described by both Elizabeth Meek MBE., the President of the Royal Miniature Society and the Rt. Hon. Michael Portillo, Chairman of the Federation of British Artists as '*extraordinary and spellbinding*' and '*the future of portrait miniatures*'. It featured in several publications including the Journal of the Royal Photographic Society.

Photographs



Left: Rob Munday with his artist proof copy of the commissioned work *Equanimity* in 2013.



Right: Rob Munday sits within his temporary photography studio in the yellow drawing room at Buckingham Palace, just prior to commencement of the first sitting in 2003. Rob's VIP (Video Images with Parallax) system, a 3D camera that he designed and built especially to shoot and create the portrait, can be seen in the foreground.



Left: Rob Munday, left, and Chris Levine, right, nervously break the ice prior to commencement of the first sitting in 2003. I am not sure that the Queen was amused!



Right: During the first sitting in 2003, Rob Munday reminds Her Majesty the Queen of a holographic work of his that she had unveiled in 1992 at the University of Surrey in Guildford to inaugurate the new Centre for Satellite Engineering Research. The University also gifted a second copy of Rob Munday's holographic work to the Queen. During the sitting, the Queen recollected that the hologram had been stored in and cared for by the Buckingham Palace library.



Left: Rob Munday demonstrates his camera system and shows the Queen the results of his shoot at the end of the first sitting in 2003.



Right: Rob Munday shows two of his holographic works to the Queen at the beginning of the second sitting in 2004. The first was the first-ever hologram portrait of herself, that Rob Munday had created at his studio in Richmond-upon-Thames in February 2004 from images taken at the first sitting, and the second was a pulsed laser holographic portrait of his daughter Camille Munday, taken when she was 18-months old (shown in the picture). Rob Munday had hoped that the Queen might like a similar portrait of her new granddaughter, Lady Louise Mountbatten-Windsor, born just six days prior to the first sitting. *Photograph by assistant photographer Nina Duncan.*



Mid-shoot at the second sitting in 2004. From left to right: Rob Munday shooting the portrait using his specially designed and built VIP 3D camera system with Chris Levine looking on, and Rob Munday's assistant Jeffrey Robb checking that the camera remains in focus. *Photograph by assistant photographer Nina Duncan.*



Left: An early holographic stereogram shown at the Tower of London in 2005. This stereogram print was commissioned by Rob Munday from John Perry of Holographics North, USA, however the result proved unacceptable due to optical distortions, and so a lenticular stereogram was made instead.



Right: The final commissioned work, a large-format lenticular stereogram, made at Rob Munday's creative holography studio in Richmond-upon-Thames, London, currently hanging in Jersey's Mont Orgueil Castle.

Jersey and the Crown

A holographic portrait by artist Chris Levine and holographer Rob Munday

Jersey et la Couronne

Portrait holographique par l'artiste Chris Levine et le holographer Rob Munday

Before medieval times Jersey people were loyal to the Duke of Normandy, the Island being part of his estate in northern France. In 1066, William the Conqueror's success meant the Island's Duke was suddenly the King of England as well.

Jersey remained loyal to their Duke, even after 1204, when the incumbent, then King John, lost his lands in France. Later, when the title 'Duke of Normandy' was eventually dropped by the English monarchy, Jersey still remained loyal to the successor kings and queens who have held the title.

So Jersey has an ancient connection directly with the English Crown. It is a unique relationship that is not enjoyed by British territories, British dependencies or British colonies. Even today, Queen Elizabeth II receives the homage of the seigneurs during Royal visits. She also still receives certain ancient fees, including two mallard ducks from the Seigneur of Trinity. These ceremonies are the remnants of our relationship with our French feudal lord - the Duke of Normandy.

This holographic portrait of Her Majesty, by artist Chris Levine and holographer Rob Munday, was commissioned as part of the Jersey 1204 - 2004 celebrations, which marked the 800th anniversary of this special relationship with the English Crown. It is intended to represent the idea of La Reine, Notre Duc, which is a popular loyal toast that refers both to the English royal connection and the Island's ancient allegiance to the Duke of Normandy.

It is fitting that the portrait hangs here in the Castle because the King's representatives were based here in the medieval era and it was a vital strategic outpost in the conflicts with France. Mont Orgueil and Elizabeth Castle were both royal castles, an interest that Her Majesty only renounced in 1996.

Avant le Moyen Âge, les jersiais étaient loyaux envers le duc de Normandie, en effet l'île faisait partie de son territoire dans le nord de France. En 1066, la victoire de Guillaume le Conquérant fit que le duc de l'île devint également aussitôt roi d'Angleterre.

Jersey resta fidèle à son duc même après 1204 quand le roi en exercice, à l'époque le roi Jean, perdit ses terres en France. Ensuite, quand la monarchie abandonna le titre de « duc de Normandie », Jersey resta fidèle aux rois et aux reines successifs qui devaient porter ce titre-là.

Donc, Jersey a un ancien lien direct avec la Couronne anglaise. C'est une relation unique que les territoires, les dépendances ou les colonies britanniques ne connaissent pas. Même encore aujourd'hui, la reine Elizabeth II reçoit les hommages des seigneurs lors de ses visites royales. Elle reçoit toujours également certaines anciennes rétributions, dont deux canards colverts de la part du seigneur de la Trinité. Ces cérémonies sont des traces de notre relation avec notre seigneur féodal français de duc de Normandie.

Le portrait holographique de sa Majesté fut commandé à l'artiste Chris Levine et le holographe Rob Munday dans le cadre des célébrations Jersey 1204 - 2004, qui marquèrent le 800e anniversaire de cette relation particulière avec la Couronne anglaise. Il est destiné à représenter la conception de La Reine, Notre Duc, qui est un toast populaire fidèle, se référant à la fois au lien royal anglais et l'ancienne allégeance de l'île envers le duc de Normandie.

Il est approprié que le portrait soit accroché au château car c'était ici que les représentants du roi siégeaient à l'époque médiévale et c'était aussi un poste stratégique essentiel dans le conflit avec la France. Mont Orgueil et Elizabeth Castle étaient tous deux des châteaux royaux, un avantage auquel sa Majesté ne renonça qu'en 1996.

The plaque shown next to the final commissioned work at Jersey's Mont Orgueil Castle. For accuracy, the final commissioned work was not a holographic portrait as stated, but a lenticular stereogram portrait.



Left: At the 2004 sitting, assistant Nina Duncan took a series of reference photographs of the Queen as she posed for Rob Munday and Chris Levine, one of which was taken as the Queen rested between shots. In 2007, upon discovering Nina Duncan's photograph, Chris Levine post processed the image in Photoshop and published it under his own name as Lightness of Being.

Middle: Rob Munday shows his artist proof copy of Equanimity, together with his laser hologram of Henry VIII's helmet from the Royal Armouries, to the Queen's daughter, Anne, Princess Royal, and discusses his Jersey Heritage Trust commission, on her visit to Shepperton Film Studios in 2009.

Right: TIME Magazine's 2012 Diamond Jubilee issue featuring a photograph of Equanimity, by Rob Munday and Chris Levine, on its cover. This was the last time that the Queen appeared on the cover of TIME Magazine during her lifetime.

Sheet of four The two se tenant sets £8 embossed and spot-varnished £4

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Issue date: 1 June 2012

"Equanimity" is the first official holographic portrait of Her Majesty The Queen and was created by artist Chris Levine and holographer Rob Munday. Our £10 stamp re-creates the portrait in holographic form using a unique black and white digital hologram miniature, thought to be the first of its kind in the world, created by Rob Munday at his studios in London.

Single stamp £10
Sheet of four stamps £40
First Day Covers and Presentation Packs £11.10

Jersey Post

Dear Rob,
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Kind Regards Sally

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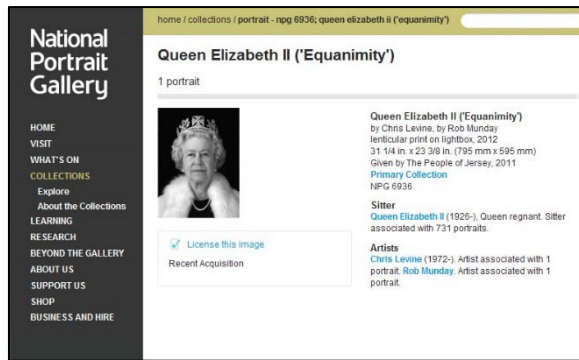
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Top: In 2011, Rob Munday was independently commissioned to design and create the world's first postage stamp to contain a 3D hologram portrait of a head of state, and the first to contain an 'achromatic' - black and white' hologram.

Bottom left: In 2012, and to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, a 2D representation of Equanimity, by Rob Munday and Chris Levine, featured on the world's first £100 banknote.

Bottom right: In 2012, Rob Munday and Chris Levine, as joint and equal co-authors of Equanimity, were invited by the Jersey Heritage Trust / The States of Jersey to co-sign limited edition commemorative booklets at the unveiling of Jersey's Diamond Jubilee £100 banknote and stamp in St Helier, Jersey.



Left: The National Portrait Gallery's official archive entry for Equanimity, by artists Rob Munday and Chris Levine.

Right: Rob Munday and Chris Levine are interviewed at the opening of the National Portrait Gallery's Diamond Jubilee exhibition entitled The Queen Art and Image, 2012.



Left: Rob Munday with Historic Royal Palaces' poster promoting their 2022 Platinum Jubilee exhibition entitled Life Through a Royal Lens. Equanimity was chosen from the world's most famous photographs to represent the exhibition.

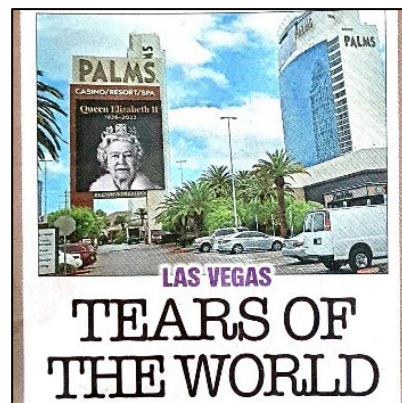
Middle: Equanimity on the cover of The National Portrait Gallery's Platinum Jubilee book entitled Elizabeth II Princess, Queen, Icon, 2022.

Right: The Royal Society of the Arts exhibits fellow Rob Munday's portraits in 2022 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.



Left: On the 4th May 2022, Rob Munday unveiled a new portrait of Her Majesty the Queen at 45 Park Lane, The Dorchester, to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. The portrait, entitled Felicity - Platinum Queen, was received to great acclaim and featured in six of the UK's national newspapers the next day and in over five hundred worldwide.

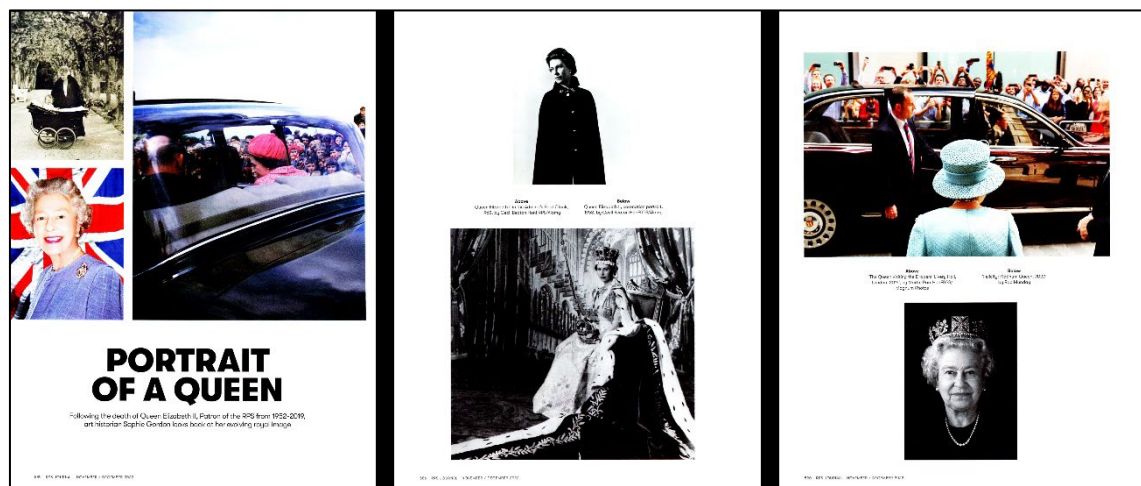
Right: Rob Munday and royal painter Christian Furr on College Green outside Westminster Hall being interviewed by Charlie Stayt live on BBC News during the Queen's Lying in State, September 2022.



Left: To commemorate the life of Her Majesty the Queen, the BBC projected a 2D representation of Equanimity, by Rob Munday and Chris Levine, onto their headquarters in London during her funeral from the 18th -19th September, 2022.

Top right: From one Queen to another, Sir Brian May and Roger Tayler of the band Queen expressed their deepest condolences by showing a 2D representation of Equanimity, by Rob Munday and Chris Levine, on their social media

Bottom right: The USA pays its respects to Her Majesty the Queen by showing Equanimity, by Rob Munday and Chris Levine, on the billboard of The Palms, Las Vegas.



For the November/December 2022 issue of their world-renowned journal, The Royal Photographic Society, whose patron was Her Majesty the Queen, together with senior curator Dr Sophie Gordon, former Head of Photographs at the Royal Collection, the Royal Library and Windsor Castle, selected Rob Munday's portrait Felicity – Platinum Queen alongside only ten other portraits by just seven other photographers to represent the Queen's life in their very special and only tribute to Her Majesty the Queen.

Rob Munday FRSA



© David Parry PA Wire

Working as both an artist and a technical innovator, and specialising in portraiture and natural subjects, Rob Munday has created many unique holographic works and lenticular light sculptures that can be found in galleries and museums around the world, including the National Portrait Gallery and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

Rob's portrait sitters have included Her Majesty the Queen, the film actress, director and UN ambassador Angelina Jolie, fashion designers Karl Lagerfeld and Valentino, rock stars Noel and Liam Gallagher, children's laureates and bestselling authors Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Anne Fine, Sir Michael Morpurgo and Sir Quentin Blake, and the distinguished WW1 veteran and world's oldest man Henry Allingham.

Rob's career-defining commission came in 2003 when he was asked to shoot and create the first-ever official 3D-holographic portrait of Her Majesty the Queen. In accepting the commission Rob became the first-ever royal holographer. In 2011, Rob created the world's first holographic postage stamp to contain a holographic portrait of a head of state to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Rob's portrait of the Queen also adorns the world's first £100 bank note and was featured on the front cover of TIME Magazine,

In 2004, Rob became the first artist in the world to create and show holographic portrait miniatures and, in 2013, unveiled a 24-karat gold miniature of Her Majesty the Queen at the Royal Miniature Society's prestigious annual exhibition. The miniature was described by the presidents of both the Royal Miniature Society and the Federation of British Artists, as 'extraordinary and spellbinding' and 'the future of portrait miniatures'.

In 2017, Rob's series entitled Naturalium, comprising of large scale, three-dimensional lenticular light sculptures of flowers, was unveiled to great acclaim at Photo London. Six Naturalium works were acquired by the Fertitta Brothers world-leading collection of contemporary art at The Palms, Las Vegas, and were shown alongside the works of Jean-Michel Basquiat, Andy Warhol, and Damien Hirst. Naturalium has since been exhibited around the world, including at Sotheby's, London.

In 1991, and to create his art, Munday designed and built the world's first 3D digital hologram printer and created the world's first 3D digital holograms. He is recognised as one of the leading pioneers of digital holography.

In 2005, Rob was awarded the Royal Photographic Society's Saxby Medal, the most prestigious international award of its kind, for both his artistic and technical achievements in the field of three-dimensional imaging and holography.

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