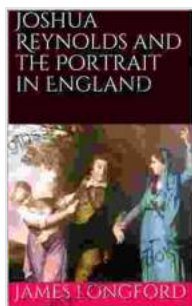


# Joshua Reynolds and the Portrait in England

Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) was the most celebrated and influential English portrait painter of the 18th century. He was born in Plympton, Devonshire, and trained under Thomas Hudson in London. Reynolds then travelled to Italy, where he was inspired by the works of the Old Masters such as Titian, Veronese, and Raphael. He returned to London in 1752 and quickly established himself as the leading portrait painter of the day.



## Joshua Reynolds and the Portrait in England

by James Longford

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Reynolds' style is characterised by his use of soft, flattering light, combined with a strong sense of composition. He was also a master of capturing the personality of his sitters, and his portraits are often very insightful.

Reynolds painted all the most important figures of his day, including King George III, Queen Charlotte, and the Duke of Wellington. He was also a founding member of the Royal Academy, and served as its first President.

Reynolds' portraits were extremely popular, and he was one of the most successful artists of his time. He also played a major role in the development of English art, and his influence can be seen in the work of many of the artists who came after him.

### **Reynolds' Grand Manner**

Reynolds' most characteristic style is known as the Grand Manner. This style is characterised by its use of bold, simple forms, and a strong sense of theatricality. Reynolds often used props and symbolism to create a sense of drama and grandeur in his portraits.

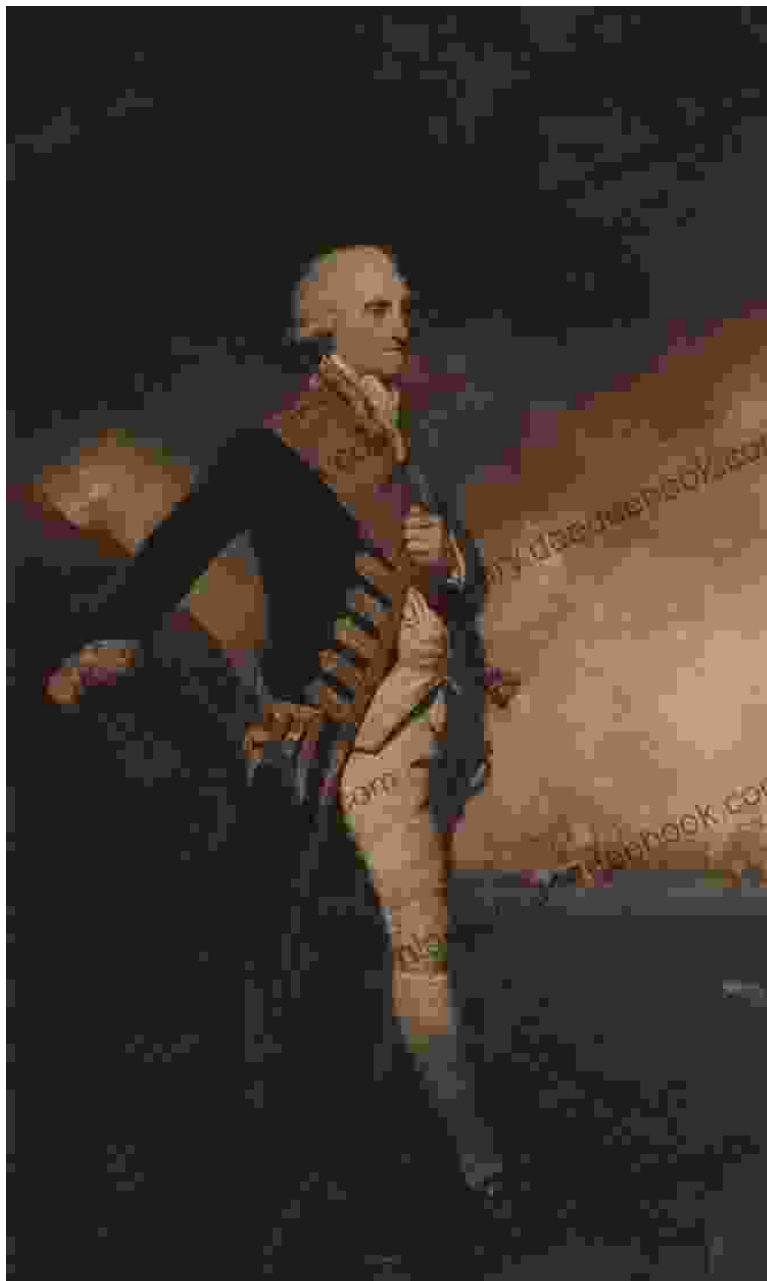


Self-Portrait by Joshua Reynolds

The Grand Manner was very popular with Reynolds' wealthy and aristocratic clientele, and it helped to establish him as the leading portrait painter of his day. However, some critics have argued that the Grand Manner is too artificial and theatrical, and that it lacks the realism and intimacy of some of Reynolds' other work.

## Reynolds' Society Portraits

In addition to his Grand Manner portraits, Reynolds also painted a number of more informal society portraits. These portraits are typically smaller in scale and more intimate in tone. Reynolds often depicted his sitters in everyday dress and settings, and he often used a more naturalistic style of painting.



Reynolds' society portraits are often very charming and engaging, and they provide a valuable glimpse into the social and cultural life of 18th century England.

## **Reynolds' Legacy**

Joshua Reynolds was one of the most important and influential figures in the history of English art. His portraits are celebrated for their beauty, their insight, and their historical significance. Reynolds also played a major role in the development of the Royal Academy, and he helped to establish the status of the artist as a respected professional.

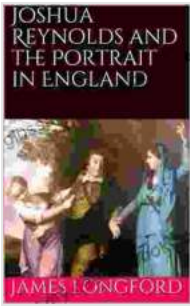
Reynolds' legacy continues to this day, and his work is still admired and studied by artists and art historians around the world.

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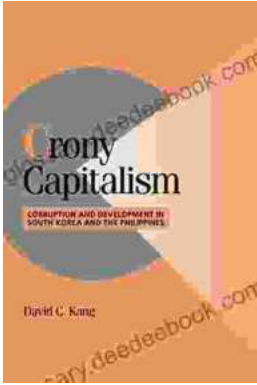
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