

CRAIGIE AITCHISON

Biography

- 1926** Born 13 January, at 12 India Street, Edinburgh. Younger son of Craigie Mason Aitchison KC and Charlotte Forbes Aitchison, née Jones. Baptised by his grandfather, the Revd James Aitchison, a minister in Falkirk
- 1929** Father appointed Lord Advocate for Scotland, first Labour politician to hold the post; elected MP for Kilmarnock and made Privy Counsellor
- 1930s** Holidays with family on the Isle of Arran
- 1933** Father appointed Lord Justice-Clerk of Scotland
- 1936** Attends Loretto School, Musselburgh, as a boarding pupil along with elder brother Raymund
- 1939–40** Family moves temporarily to The Parsonage near the "Dunmore Pineapple" on mother's family estate near Stirling
- 1941** Father, Lord Aitchison PC KC, dies. Leaves Loretto School. Attends Basil Paterson & Ainslie, Tutors, Edinburgh
- 1943** Leaves Basil Paterson with average grades in English Language, English Literature, French, History and Religious Knowledge; achieves credit in Latin enabling future study of Law
Conscripted but immediately discharged on medical grounds
- 1944** Enrols at University of Edinburgh to study Law. Studies British History and Jurisprudence until 1946
- 1948** Moves to London and takes lodgings in Montpelier Walk. Enrols at Middle Temple, City of London, to study Law. Sits examinations in British History, Public International and Roman Law
- 1950** Converts mews house in Church Lane, Edinburgh, behind family home in India Street into studio. Paints mostly still-lifes. Shows very first pictures at Elizabeth Bell Flower Shop next door to studio
- 1951** In London takes private tuition from artist Adrian Daintrey. Copies Augustus John portrait in Tate Gallery
- 1951–52** Moves into lodgings at 19 Adam's Row, Mayfair. Copies painting of a view of Dieppe by Fauvist master Albert Marquet

- 1952 Takes private tuition from artist Gerald Frankl. Applies to the Slade School of Art to study as part-time fee-paying student in August. Accepted at Slade School and begins attending classes three days per week in October. Frequents Orange Street pub along with Euan Uglow, Myles Murphy and friends
- 1953 Moves from Gloucester Place, Marylebone, first to Portobello Road and from there to Gower Street. Increases study at Slade School to six days per week. Moves to Slade Hostel, Cartwright Gardens, near Euston. Eighteen months later moves with fellow student Myles Murphy to 22a Lower Marsh, near Waterloo Station, London. Wins Slade School prize (the book *Artists on Art*, compiled by Robert Goldwater and Maria Treves) for still-life painting, *Scissors and Pink String*. Subsequently destroys painting
- 1954 Wins Italian Government scholarship to travel in Italy. Spends two and a half months travelling first to Rome, and then through Tuscany and Umbria to Venice, returning home via Munich, Amsterdam and Brussels
- 1956 Shows in Gallery One, London, in exhibition entitled *Three Romantic Painters*. Leaves Lower Marsh and returns to Scotland
- 1958–63 Paints series of landscapes at Tulliallan, near Kincardine-on-Forth, Clack Mannanshire. Paints first *Crucifixion*, the beginning of an ongoing series of works on this theme
- 1959 On recommendation of painter Michael Andrews, taken up by dealer Helen Lessore and shows for first time at Beaux Arts Gallery, Bruton Place, London
- 1960 Shows for second time at Beaux Arts Gallery
- 1962 Meets professional model Georgeous Macaulay while teaching part-time at Regent Street Polytechnic. Begins extended series of nudes and portraits lasting until 1976
- 1963 Returns from Scotland with mother, Lady Aitchison, to live full-time in London
- 1964 Shows for third and final time at Beaux Arts Gallery. Gallery closes down a year later
- 1965 Lawrence Gowing, Principal of Chelsea School of Art, allows Craigie to use large studio in school during the summer. Paints large scale nudes. First work, *Nudes against a Blue Background*, purchased by Arts Council of Great Britain
- 1968 Begins teaching part-time at Chelsea School of Art. Meets model Daphne Charlton and begins series of nudes and portraits
- 1970 Mother dies in London. Awarded Edwin Austin Premier Scholarship for Painting
- 1971 Sees first Bedlington terrier at Crufts and buys Wayne
- 1975 With help from writer John McEwen, acquires SPACE studio on fifth floor of building overlooking Cambridge Circus. Introduced to American writer and journalist Lendel

Scott-Ellis by friend Ann Barr. Begins series of nude studies and portraits of her. Acquires a house near Siena. Spends eighteen months working in Italy

- 1977 Meets eighty-five year old retired boxer, David Smith, known as 'Chicago', and begins series of portraits
- 1978 Elected Associate Member of the Royal Academy of Arts
- 1981–82 Arts Council of Great Britain holds retrospective exhibition of work at the Serpentine Gallery, London; subsequently tours Great Britain
- 1982 *Painting Chicago*, a film about Craigie Aitchison produced to coincide with retrospective at Serpentine Gallery
- 1986 Designs neckties and ceramics for the Royal Academy of Arts
- 1987 Meets Naaotwa Swayne, wife of friend, composer Giles Swayne, and begins extended series of portraits
- 1987–89 Exhibits at the Albemarle Gallery, London
- 1988 Elected Member of the Royal Academy of Arts
- 1993 Returns for the first time since childhood to Isle of Arran and begins large landscapes
- 1996 Exhibition *Craigie: The Art of Craigie Aitchison* held at the Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow
Monograph by Andrew Gibbon Williams published by Canongate Books, Edinburgh
- 1997 Commissioned by Sainsbury Jerusalem Trust to paint *Calvary* for Truro Cathedral
- 1998 Commissioned by the Dean and Chapter to paint *Calvary* for Liverpool Cathedral
- 1999 Commissioned by the Royal Mail to paint Christmas stamp for the Millennium
Appointed Commander of the British Empire (CBE)
- 2003 First one-man exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts; *Craigie Aitchison. Out of the Ordinary*
- 2006 Curates an exhibition of work by Euan Uglow; *Euan Uglow: A personal choice by Craigie Aitchison* at The Holburne Museum of Art, Bath opening in October
- 2009 Awarded honorary Doctor of Arts, University of Bath
- 2009 Dies on 21 December in London
- 2012 Craigie Aitchison Memorial Window, based on one of his crucifixion paintings, is unveiled at St Mary the Boltons in Chelsea

Solo Exhibitions

1959	Beaux Arts Gallery, London
1960	Beaux Arts Gallery, London
1964	Beaux Arts Gallery, London
1968	Marlborough Fine Arts Ltd, London
1970	Compass Gallery, Glasgow (catalogue introduction by Helen Lessore)
1971	Basil Jacobs Gallery, London
1975	Rutland Gallery, London (catalogue introduction by Helen Lessore) <i>Craigie Aitchison: Recent Paintings</i> , Scottish Arts Council, Edinburgh (catalogue introduction by Helen Lessore)
1977	M.Knoedler & Co. Ltd, London
1979	Kettle's Yard Gallery, Cambridge (catalogue introduction by John McEwen)
1981	David Grob Fine Art, London
1981–92	Arts Council Retrospective Exhibition, Serpentine Gallery, London; Midland Group, Nottingham; City Museum and Art Gallery, Old Portsmouth; Central Library Exhibition Gallery, Milton Keynes; Museum & Art Gallery, Bolton (catalogue introduction by Helen Lessore; essay by John McEwen)
1985	Artis Monte Carlo, Monaco
1987	Albemarle Gallery, London (catalogue introduction by Patrick Kinmonth)
1989	<i>Craigie Aitchison: Recent Paintings</i> , Albemarle Gallery, London (interview by Andrew Lambirth)
1993	<i>Craigie Aitchison: New Paintings</i> , Thomas Gibson Fine Art, London (catalogue introduction by John McEwen)
1994	<i>Spirit of Lamlash: The Paintings of Craigie Aitchison 1954–1994</i> , Terrace Gallery, Harewood House, Leeds (catalogue essay by Mary Sara)
1996	<i>Craigie: The Art of Craigie Aitchison</i> , Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow
1998	<i>Craigie Aitchison</i> , Timothy Taylor Gallery and Waddington Galleries, London (catalogue introduction by John McEwen; conversation with Andrew Lambirth)
2000	<i>Craigie Aitchison</i> , Galeria Ramis Barquet, New York

- 2001 *Craigie Aitchison: Italian and other paintings*, Timothy Taylor Gallery and Waddington Galleries, London
Craigie Aitchison, The Museum of Modern Art, Powys, Wales
- 2003 *Craigie Aitchison*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
Craigie Aitchison: Works on Paper, Friends' Room, Royal Academy of Arts, London
Craigie Aitchison: Out of the Ordinary, Sackler Wing, Royal Academy of Arts, London
Craigie Aitchison: Print Retrospective, Advanced Graphics, London
- 2004 *Craigie Aitchison 'Pictures'*, Timothy Taylor Gallery and Waddington Galleries, London
- 2005 *Eye 2*, Edinburgh (prints)
- 2006 *Craigie Aitchison Recent Work*, Timothy Taylor Gallery and Waddington Galleries, London
- 2007 *Craigie Aitchison, Drawings & Prints*, Rabley Contemporary Drawing Centre, Wiltshire
- 2008 *The Art of Craigie Aitchison*, Paul Smith 'Space' Gallery, Tokyo
Craigie Aitchison: The Prints 1969–2008, Abbot Hall, Kendal
Craigie Aitchison, Cyril Gerber Fine Art Ltd, Edinburgh
- 2009 *Craigie Aitchison: Paintings*, Timothy Taylor Gallery, London
- 2010 *Craigie Aitchison*, Talbot Rice Gallery, The University of Edinburgh
Craigie Aitchison, University of Bath
- 2012 *Craigie Aitchison CBE, RA 1926–2009*, Timothy Taylor Gallery, London
- 2013 *Craigie Aitchison: A Private Collection*, Waddington Custot Galleries, London

Selected Group Exhibitions

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| 1954 | <i>Six Young Contemporaries</i> , Gimpel Fils, London |
| 1956 | <i>Three Romantic Painters</i> , Gallery One, London |
| 1958–61 | <i>New Paintings</i> , Art Council Touring Exhibition |
| 1964 | Gulbenkian Foundation, Tate Gallery, London |
| 1967 | <i>Il Tempo dell'Imagine</i> , Second International Biennale, Bologna |
| 1969 | <i>Modern British Painters</i> , Tokyo |
| 1969–70 | Cunard Marlborough London Gallery (on board QE2) |
| 1974 | <i>British Painting '74</i> , Hayward Gallery, London |
| 1975 | Contemporary Art Society Art Fair, Mall Galleries, London
23 rd Salon Actualité de l'Esprit, Centre d'Accueil de l'Université de Paris |
| 1979 | Artists' Market, London |
| 1982 | <i>Prophecy and Vision</i> , Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol |
| 1984 | <i>The Proper Study</i> , British Council exhibition, Lalit Kala Akademi, Delhi |
| 1984–5 | <i>The Singular Vision</i> , Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter |
| 1985 | <i>The Hard-Won Image</i> , Tate Gallery, London |
| 1987 | <i>The Glass of Vision: Seven Artists in a Christian Context: Craigie Aitchison, Jane Dowling, Donald Johnson, John Piper, Michael Renton, John Skelton, Richard Webb</i>
(foreword by The Very Revd Robert Holtby, Dean of Chichester, Chichester Cathedral) |
| 1988 | <i>Graven Images: Art, Religion and Politics</i>
Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston
<i>Jeffrey Camp: A Personal Choice</i>
Nigel Greenwood Gallery, London |
| 1989 | <i>Faces of Britain: An Exhibition of Figurative Painting 1949-89 for China</i> , British Council exhibition touring China
<i>New Icons</i> , Mead Gallery, University of Warwick touring exhibition
<i>A Spiritual Dimension</i> , Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery touring exhibition |
| 1991 | Castlefield Gallery, Manchester
<i>Art in Worship</i> (catalogue essay 'Seen and Unseen' by Don Cupitt; commentaries by Sister Wendy Beckett)
Tewkesbury Abbey, Worcester Cathedral |

- 1992 *British Figurative Painting of the 20th Century*, British Council exhibition, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- 1993 *Images of Christ*
Arts Council touring exhibition
Northampton Museum & Art Gallery; St Paul's Cathedral, London
- 1994 *Five Protagonists: Craigie Aitchison, Antony Eyton, Patrick George, Myles Murphy, Euan Uglow*
Browse & Darby, London (catalogue essay 'A Common Pursuit' by Andrew Lambirth)
- 2000–2001 *The School of London and their Friends: The Collection of Elaine and Melvin Merians*, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut; touring to Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, Purchase (catalogue essay by Richard Cork)
Paintings & Prints by Six Royal Academicians, New Academy, London and the Curwen Gallery, London
The Royal Scottish Academy: Annual Exhibition, The Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh
20th Century British Art, Scholar Fine Art & Berkeley Square Gallery, London (catalogue introduction by Peter Osborne & Gordon Samuel)
Summer Exhibition 2001, Royal Academy of Arts, London
- 2002 *Summer Exhibition 2002*, Royal Academy of Arts, London
- 2003 *Celebrate: Contemporary art from the National Museums & Galleries of Wales and the Derek Williams Trust*, Oriel Davies Gallery, Newtown, Powys
Summer Exhibition 2003, Royal Academy of Arts, London
- 2004 *Scottish Royal Academy 178th exhibition* (inaugural re-opening of the Scottish Royal Academy)
Summer Exhibition 2004, Royal Academy of Arts, London
- 2005 Glyndebourne Opera House, Stalls Gallery, Lewes
Summer Exhibition 2005, Royal Academy of Arts, London
- 2006 *Per Annum Painting the Seasons*, City Art Centre, Edinburgh
Summer Exhibition 2006, Royal Academy of Arts
A Critic's Choice selected by Andrew Lambirth, The Art Shop, Abergavenny, Wales
- 2008 *Tree Exhibition, (in the manner of Thomas Jones) by contemporary artists*, Radnorshire Museum, Llandrindod Wells
Think of a table for two, Craigie Aitchison and Joel Tomlin, Galerie Jones, Koln
- 2010 *A Critic's Choice selected by Andrew Lambirth*, Browse & Darby, London
Easter Image: Craigie Aitchison & Maggi Hambling, The Kentish Barn, Canterbury Cathedral, Kent

Cross Purposes; shock and contemplation in images of the crucifixion, Mascalls
Gallery, Paddock Wood, Kent

Selected Bibliography

- 1982 *Painting Chicago, a film about Craigie Aitchison*, produced to coincide with retrospective at Serpentine Gallery
Craigie Aitchison: Paintings 1953-1981, exh. cat.
- 1987 *Craigie Aitchison: Paintings 1982-1987*, with an essay by Patrick Kinmonth, Albermarle Gallery, London
- 1989 *Craigie Aitchison: Recent Paintings*, Albermarle Gallery, London
- 1993 *Craigie Aithchison: New Paintings*, Thomas Gibson Fine Art, London
- 1996 *Craigie: The Art of Craigie Aitchison*, Andrew Gibbon-Williams, Canongate, Edinburgh
- 1998 *Craigie Aitchison*, with an essay by John McEwen, Timothy Taylor and Waddington Galleries, London
- 2000 *Craigie Aitchison*, Galeria Ramis Barquet, New York
- 2001 *Craigie Aitchison: Italian and other paintings*, Timothy Taylor and Waddington Galleries, London
- 2003 *Craigie Aitchison: Out of the Ordinary*, Andrew Lambirth, Royal Academy, London
Craigie Aitchison, The Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
'In dogs we trust', Caroline Boucher, Craigie Aitchison, Royal Academy, London, Oct-Nov 2003, *The Observer*, October 12
'Craigie Aitchison is a major talent with modest ambitions', John Russell Taylor, Craigie Aitchison, Royal Academy, London, *The Times*, October 15
'Continental drift', Laura Gascoigne, *RA Magazine*, Autumn, pp.69-70
'Crosses and canines from Siena to London', *Mayfair Times*, October
'portrait of an artist...Craigie Aitchison', Virginia Boston, *A & I*, October
'A Singular Vision', Anthony Gardner, *Telegraph Magazine*, July 19
'Craigie Aitchison', Martin Gayford, *The Sunday Telegraph Review*, October 26
'Where to buy...', *The Week*, August 30
- 2004 *Craigie Aitchison, Pictures*, Timothy Taylor Gallery and Waddington Galleries
'Craigie Aitchison', Jackie Wullschlager, *FT Magazine*, December 18
'Private View', Peter Chapman, *The Information*, December 11-17
'NOT the Nutcracker', Rachel Campbell-Johnston, *The Times*, December 13
'In Vogue', *Vogue*, December
Camilla Long, *Tatler*, December
'Where to buy... Craigie Aitchison at the Timothy Taylor Gallery', *The Week*, December 10
'Craigie Aitchison, Pictures', Prof. John Haldane, *The Tablet*, December 11
'A rare breed among artists', Aidan Smith, *Scotland on Sunday*, November 28
- 2005 *Glyndebourne Opera House programme*, May-August 2005, illustrations for front and back cover

The Cultivated Shopper, *Town & Country Travel*
 Da Londra, *Architectural Digest*, January
 Art Sales, Colin Gleadell, *Daily Telegraph*, January 17
 'Master of understatement and the mystical humdrum', Michael Glover, *The Financial Times*, January 13, p.13
 'The colour of emotions', Sue Hubbard, *The Independent, Arts & Books Review*, January 7, p.30
 'Artistic sustenance', Andrew Lambirth, *The Spectator*, January 1

- 2006 *Euan Uglow: A personal choice by Craigie Aitchison*, The Holburne Museum of Art, Bath
 'Under a grand: Craigie Aitchison', Colin Gleadell, *Daily Telegraph*, July 12
- 2010 *Craigie Aitchison: Paintings 1950-2007*, Talbot Rice Gallery, The University of Edinburgh
- 2012 'Craigie Aitchison- Timothy Taylor Gallery, London', Jackie Wullschlager, *FT Weekend*, p.17, 24/25 August
 'Glowing References', Ariane Bankes, *Royal Academy of Arts Magazine*, no,114, Spring
 'Glimpses into an exotic grotto', Bankes, Ariane, *The Daily Telegraph*, 10 January
- 2013 *Craigie Aitchison: A Private Collection*, exh. cat., Andrew Lambirth, Waddington Custot Galleries, London

Public and Corporate Collections

Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum
Arts Council of Great Britain, London
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
King's College, Cambridge
Contemporary Art Society, London
Central Selling Organisation (De Beers)
Robert Fleming Holdings Limited
Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries
Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool
Harewood House, Leeds
Jerwood Foundation, London
Lincoln Cathedral
Liverpool Cathedral
National Art Collections Fund, London
Newcastle Region Art Gallery, New South Wales, Australia
Newport Art Gallery
Nottingham Castle Museum and Art Gallery
Royal Academy of Arts, London
Rugby Borough Council
Scottish Arts Council
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
South African National Gallery, Cape Town
Tate, London
Truro Cathedral
University College, London
University of Liverpool Art Gallery and Collections

Awards

1953	The Slade School annual prize for best still-life
1955	British Council Italian Government Scholarship
1965	Arts Council of Great Britain purchase award
1970	Edwin Austin Abbey Premier Scholarship
1974	Prizewinner John Moores Liverpool Exhibition
1974–75	Lorne Scholarship
1976	Arts Council of Great Britain bursary
1984	First Johnson Wax Prize, Royal Academy of Arts
1989	Korn Ferry International Award, Royal Academy of Arts
1994	The Jerwood Prize
2000	Nordstern Art Prize