

	Reynolds' life	Art & Politics
1723	Reynolds is born on 16 July in Plymton, a small town near Plymouth, in Devon	
1727		Death of George I; his son George II ascends to the throne Birth of Thomas Gainsborough
1734		Work begins on the Temple of British Worthies at Stowe, designed by architect William Kent
1740	Begins his apprenticeship in London with Thomas Hudson	Start of the War of Austrian Succession
1741		David Garrick plays Richard III to great critical acclaim
1742		Robert Walpole resigns as prime minister
1743	Quarrels with Hudson and ends his apprenticeship	William Hogarth completes his <i>Marriage à la Mode</i> paintings
1744		Death of Alexander Pope
1745		Jacobite rebels, led by Charles Edward Stuart, defeat the English at the battle of Prestonpans
1746		Jacobite rebellion defeated at the battle of Culloden The Venetian painter Canaletto arrives in England Birth of the Spanish painter Francisco de Goya
1748		Publication of Samuel Richardson's novel <i>Clarissa Harlowe</i>
1749	Sails to Italy with Admiral Keppel, via Portugal, Spain and Minorca	Publication of Henry Fielding's novel <i>Tom Jones</i>
1750	Reynolds arrives in Rome	
1752	Returns home via Paris, after three years in Italy, bringing young Giuseppe Marchi as his assistant	Gregorian calendar accepted in Britain, moving New Year's Day from 25 March to 1 January
1753	Reynolds establishes himself in London, in St Martin's Lane Charges 48 guineas for a full length portrait	Founding of the British Museum
1755		Samuel Johnson publishes <i>A Dictionary of the English Language</i>

1756		<p>Start of Seven Years War between Britain and France</p> <p>William Pitt (the Elder) becomes secretary of state</p>
1757		<p>William Pitt becomes prime minister</p> <p>Birth of William Blake</p> <p>Edmund Burke publishes <i>A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origins of our ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful</i></p>
1759	<p>Reynolds's first writing on art is published in <i>The Idler</i></p> <p>Charges 100 guineas for a full-length portrait</p>	<p>General Wolfe captures Quebec from the French, securing Canada as an English colony</p> <p>Publication of Voltaire's <i>Candide</i></p>
1760	<p>Moves to no 47 Leicester Square and builds a new studio</p> <p>Exhibits five paintings at the first annual exhibition at the Society of Arts</p>	<p>Death of George II; his grandson becomes George III</p> <p>Laurence Sterne publishes first volumes of <i>Tristram Shandy</i></p> <p>London's first public exhibition of contemporary British art</p>
1761		<p>George III marries Charlotte of Meckenburg-Strelitz</p> <p>William Pitt resigns as secretary of state</p> <p>Giovanni Battista Piranesi re-works his etching series <i>Carceri d'Invenzione (Imaginary Prisons)</i></p>
1762		<p>Birth of George, Prince of Wales</p> <p>Catherine the Great assumes power in Russia</p> <p>Rousseau's <i>Emile</i> is published</p>
1763		<p>The Seven Years War between Britain and France ends with the Peace of Paris</p>
1764	<p>Reynolds, Samuel Johnson and others found the Literary Club, later known simply as 'the Club'. They meet at the Turk's Head in Gerrard Street</p>	<p>William Hogarth dies</p>
1765	<p>Reynolds charges 150 guineas for a</p>	<p>The Stamp Act is passed to raise</p>

	full-length portrait	taxes in the American colonies
		Samuel Johnson's edition of Shakespeare is published
1766		Angelica Kauffmann settles in London
		Oliver Goldsmith's novel <i>The Vicar of Wakefield</i> is published
1768	Reynolds is elected first president of the Royal Academy	James Cook begins first of three voyages to the Pacific, accompanied by botanist Joseph Banks
	Visits Paris	The Royal Academy of Arts is founded
		Death of Canaletto
		Laurence Sterne publishes <i>A Sentimental Journey</i>
1769	Delivers the first of his Discourses on Art at the opening of the Royal Academy on 2 January	The Royal Academy's first annual exhibition
	Receives a knighthood from George III	
1770		The Italian painter Giovanni Battista Tiepolo dies
		Publication of Oliver Goldsmith's poem <i>The Deserted Village</i>
1771	Reynolds visits Paris again	
	The wealthy brewer Henry Thrale commissions a series of portraits of their friends, for his country house in Streatham	
1772	Elected Alderman of the borough of Plympton	
1773	Awarded Doctorate of Civil Law at the University of Oxford	The 'Boston Tea Party': tea worth thousands of pounds destroyed in American protest against tax on tea
	Elected Mayor of Plympton	Samuel Johnson and James Boswell journey to the Scottish Highlands and Hebrides
1774	Charles James Fox becomes a member of the Club	Omai arrives in England from Tahiti and begins a two-year stay

		Death of Oliver Goldsmith
1775	Elected member of the Academy at Florence Royal Academy refuses to exhibit Nathaniel Hone's <i>The Conjuror</i> , showing Reynolds magically turning old prints into modern paintings	Start of the American War of Independence (until 1783) Birth of Jane Austen Birth of JMW Turner Sheridan's comedy <i>The Rivals</i> performed at Covent Garden
1776		4 July: American Declaration of Independence Birth of John Constable Edward Gibbon begins publication of <i>The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire</i>
1777		Defeat of British forces under General Burgoyne at the battle of Saratoga First performance of Sheridan's <i>The School for Scandal</i> , at Drury Lane Theatre
1778	Reynolds's first seven <i>Discourses</i> are published	France joins America in war against Britain Admiral Keppel is acquitted at a court martial Death of Giovanni Battista Piranesi Fanny Burney's <i>Evelina</i> published
1779		Siege of Gibraltar (to 1783) Publication begins of Johnson's <i>Lives of the English Poets</i> Death of David Garrick Death of Captain Cook
1780		Violent anti-Catholic riots break out in London, lasting several days, and resulting in around 850 deaths The Royal Academy moves into its new building, Somerset House, on the Strand
1781	Reynolds tours Flanders and the Low	

	Countries	
1782		Boswell publishes his <i>Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides with Samuel Johnson</i>
1783	Reynolds suffers violent inflammation of his eyes	Peace Treaty: Britain recognises American independence Charles James Fox becomes joint secretary of state; is later dismissed
1784	Becomes Principal Painter in Ordinary to King George III	General Election: Pitt the Younger becomes prime minister George, Prince of Wales, marries Mrs Fitzherbert in secret Death of Samuel Johnson
1785	Visits Brussels , Antwerp and Ghent	Jacques-Louis David's Oath of the Horatii is exhibited in Rome
1787	Reynolds's portrait of Prince George with a black servant is given pride of place in the Great Room at the Royal Academy exhibition	The Abolition Society, an anti-slavery lobby, is formed in England Mozart's Don Giovanni performed
1788		George III begins to suffer periods of illness, probably caused by porphyria Death of Thomas Gainsborough
1789	Reynolds loses the vision in one eye Visits the Sussex coast	Outbreak of the French Revolution; fall of the Bastille
1790	Resigns as president of the Royal Academy , but withdraws his resignation a few months later Delivers the last of his Discourses on Art to the Royal Academy	Publication of Edmund Burke's <i>Reflections on the Revolution</i>
1791	Reynolds is now almost totally blind He writes his will, leaving most of his estate to his niece, Mary Palmer	James Boswell publishes <i>Life of Samuel Johnson</i> Thomas Paine publishes part I of <i>The Rights of Man</i>
1792	Reynolds dies on 23 February, aged 68 He is given a state burial at St Paul's Cathedral	Abolition of the French monarchy; proclamation of the First French Republic