

Wedding Dance, oil sketch by Hogarth. 'The Happy Marriage VI'

Acquisition of painting that had been on loan to the Tate from London Borough of Southwark since 1968. Circa 1745, oil on canvas, 677 x 892mm. This is a sketch for a painting in a series about a happy marriage, which Hogarth never completed. It shows a dance in the hall of an old-fashioned Jacobean country mansion. Hogarth includes a range of clearly differentiated types, from the elegant couple on the right, to the 'country bumpkins' further down the line. In the background a tired dancer has taken off his wig and mops his bald head in the cool night breeze at the open window. Hogarth later adapted the design for one of the plates in his theoretical treatise, the *Analysis of Beauty*, published in 1753.

Nation/region

London

Grant awarded

£150,000

Award date

24/02/1983