

David Hockney's Mr and Mrs Clark Fashion and Lifestyle Icons of the '60s

'I wanted to achieve the presence of two people in this room. All the technical problems were caused because my main aim was to paint the relationship between these two people'.

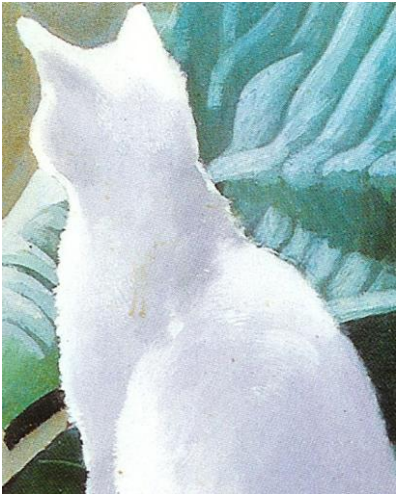
David Hockney, 1976



The two people being Celia Birtwell and Ossie Clark, then leading fashion celebrities and close friends and contemporaries of the artist. This iconic painting (1969-71) by David Hockney, is also 'the best selling postcard at the Tate'. But within the seemingly cool, iconic modernist interior, a poignant and dramatic tragedy is beginning to unravel.

Using David Hockney's sketches and photographs of the work in progress, the lecture explores the characters and their stories – Hockney's experiments here and with other examples of the psychology behind the double portrait, his fascination with interiors and 'contre-jour' light effects; the designs of Ossie Clark and Celia Birtwell, their celebrity pop clientele and the innovative retailing experiments of London's boutique culture in the 1960s and early 70s.

London's role will be viewed at that time as a magnet for attracting creative young design talent, especially designers from the north of England (such as Hockney, Clark and Birtwell). In Hockney's own words *'In the 1960s you felt a freshness that was exciting. You didn't let the commercial side interfere with things in film, music, painting and fashion. It was an energy driven by the bohemian world'*.



THE WIZARD OF OSSIE

Clay Clark is the star of
this original film series
in this four-page story. It's a
magical meeting in a magical
magical setting of Oz-like
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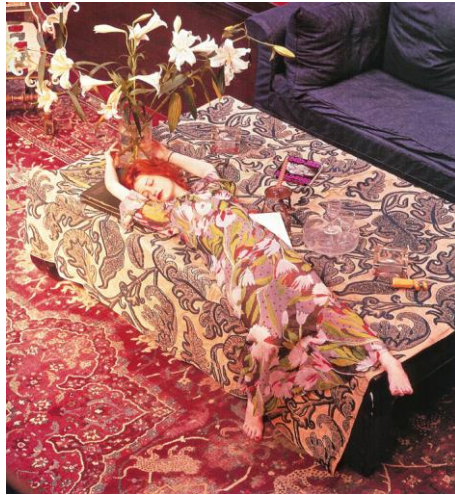


Photo below taken by the author at the Aspen Design Conference in 1986, showing Norman Parkinson, Zandra Rhodes and David Hockney (in white cap lighting a cigarette!). David Hockney was a keynote speaker and generously gave of his time to 'talk art' with the student volunteers afterwards.

