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• January 20 2011

### **QMA lends first British portrait of a black African Muslim and free slave to National Portrait Gallery**

The Qatar Museums Authority and the National Portrait Gallery announce a cooperative agreement to display the portrait of Ayuba Suleiman Diallo, painted by William Hoare of Bath in 1733 in London. Ayuba Suleiman Diallo is an important figure in the history of Britain and its involvement in the Transatlantic slave trade. An educated man from a family of Muslim imams in West Africa, Diallo was taken into slavery and sent to work on a plantation in America. By his own intelligence and piety, and assisted by a stroke of fortune, Diallo arrived in London in 1733 where he mixed with high and intellectual society, was introduced at Court and was bought out of slavery by public subscription. Through the publication by Thomas Bluett of his Memoirs in 1734, Diallo had an important and lasting impact on an understanding of West African culture, black identity and the Islamic faith. This portrait depicts Diallo as a man of intelligence, character and compassion – providing rare insight into the emergence of more tolerant values in Britain during the Enlightenment.



The Qatar Museums Authority has now decided to lend the work to the National Portrait Gallery for a five year period. It goes on display at the Gallery from tomorrow Thursday 20 January 2011. The Authority will support a programme organised by the Gallery to include the conservation of the painting, research and interpretation, a UK tour to include Leicester, Liverpool and the North-East, and an exhibition to visit Doha in 2013. As part of the programme, an intern from Doha will spend time working at the National Portrait Gallery.