

# A Complete Portrait of Arthur Jeffress 1905-1961

## 1949-1961 A Portrait of Arthur Jeffress in Venice

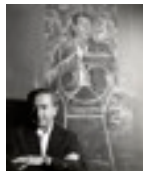
Arthur Jeffress bought a house in Venice in 1949. It was not a palazzo on the Grand Canal as usually described but a lovely house with a garden between St Mark's Square and the Accademia bridge.



The map provided for guests in Venice,  
Southampton City Archives



The gondola and two gondoliers for  
which Arthur became famous, moored  
outside the flat of Martyn Coleman  
who later inherited the Venice house,  
Southampton City Archives



Arthur Jeffress in front of  
his portrait by Sutherland  
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Arthur asked his close friend Graham Sutherland to paint his portrait in 1953 just as he was planning his new gallery. Sittings all took place between 1953 and 1955 in the Venice garden. The background to the portrait is the damask from Arthur's bed which had also been at Marwell.

The artist summed it up in a letter to the gallery:

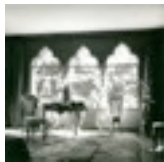
*It is the definitive portrait of three which I did of my friend and dealer. The chair in which he is sitting was one of those garden chairs which he used and the pose which he habitually assumed. The tapestry background refers to a tapestry which was in his bedroom and added, as I thought at the time, an air of sumptuousness which was very characteristic of him.*



The Garden in Venice with Jeffress's  
little dog La Dolce Vita,  
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Arthur's bed with damask bedhead and cover  
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A view on to the garden from  
inside the Venice house,  
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