

NEW ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS WILL OPEN ON 19 MAY 2018 FOLLOWING A TRANSFORMATIVE REDEVELOPMENT

- **Royal Academy will unveil new and transformed campus on 19 May 2018**
- ***Tacita Dean: LANDSCAPE* will inaugurate new exhibition galleries 19 May – 12 August 2018**
- **Series of new and free displays of art and architecture across the campus**
- **New online platform supported by National Lottery will open up public access to the RA Collection**

The Royal Academy of Arts, the world's foremost artist and architect-led institution, will open its new campus to the public on Saturday 19 May 2018 as part of the celebrations of its 250th anniversary year. Following a transformational redevelopment, designed by internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield CBE RA and supported by the National Lottery, the new Royal Academy will open up and reveal more of the elements that make the RA unique – sharing with the public historic treasures from its Collection, the work of its Royal Academicians and the Royal Academy Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme.

One of the most significant outcomes of the redevelopment is the link between Burlington House and Burlington Gardens, uniting the two-acre campus. This will provide 70% more space than the RA's original Burlington House footprint, enabling the RA to expand its exhibition programme and to create new and free displays of art and architecture across the campus for visitors year-round. From dedicated galleries to surprising interventions, a dynamic series of changing exhibits and installations will present the living heritage of the Royal Academy; exploring its foundation and history in training artists as well as showcasing contemporary works by Royal Academicians and students at the RA Schools. To animate the displays, a new range of free tours, taster talks and object handling stations will be available to visitors.

Tacita Dean: LANDSCAPE (19 May – 12 August 2018) will inaugurate the new **Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries** in Burlington Gardens. With Art Fund support, the exhibition is part of an unprecedented collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery in London. It will showcase the internationally-renowned visual artist and Royal Academician Tacita Dean who will explore the genre of landscape in its broadest sense: intimate collections of natural found objects, a mountainous blackboard drawing and a major new, two screen 35mm film installation, *Antigone*, that uses multiple exposures to combine places, people and seasons into the single cinematographic frame. *Antigone* was funded in

part through the support of the Laurenz Foundation-Schaulager and its founder Maja Oeri; and VIA Art Fund.

The magnificent new **Royal Academy Collection Gallery** will present *The Making of an Artist: The Great Tradition* highlighting works from the RA Collection, including the 'Taddei Tondo' by Michelangelo and the RA's almost full-size sixteenth century copy of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, along with paintings by Reynolds, Kauffman, Thornhill, Constable, Gainsborough and Turner. Selected by the President of the Royal Academy, Christopher Le Brun, it will focus on the first sixty years of the RA, juxtaposing masterpieces from the RA's teaching collection with Diploma Works by past Royal Academicians. The display of the RA Collection has been supported by the Blavatnik Family Foundation.

The **Architecture Studio** within The Dorfman Senate Rooms will provide a creative space that invites audience engagement with innovative and critical ideas on architecture and its intersection with the arts. It will open with *Invisible Landscapes* (19 May 2018 – March 2019), explored in three 'Acts' of immersive interventions looking at the impact and future of technology in people's environments. In contrast, recently conserved historical architectural casts on display in **The Dorfman Architecture Court** will convey the history of teaching architecture: the tradition of learning to draw from casts of buildings.

Located at the entrance to the Weston Bridge, which connects Burlington Gardens into Burlington House, **The Ronald and Rita McAulay Gallery** will stage site-specific installations by Royal Academicians. The first major work will be *Tips for a Good Life* by Bob and Roberta Smith RA (September 2018 – September 2019), on the subject of gender in the history of the RA.

Moving through to Burlington House, visitors will arrive at the **Weston Studio**. Located within the heart of the Royal Academy Schools, the Weston Studio will bring the ethos and thinking of the RA Schools' postgraduate programme to a changing contemporary series of two displays a year and projects developed by students and graduates. It will open with a group exhibition of works by first year students, revealing their rich use of subjects, approaches, methods and materials.

Going back in time, **The Vaults** will exhibit *The Making of an Artist: Learning to Draw* a formidable selection of plaster casts from the early years of the RA Schools displayed together with works on paper from the RA's teaching collection, illustrating the RA's role in the teaching of art since the RA Schools' foundation in 1769. Works will include anatomical casts and casts of antique sculptures, such as the Venus de Milo and Farnese Hercules, juxtaposed with recent works on related themes by RA Schools graduates. Works on paper include a special display 'From the Child to the President' by John Everett Millais PRA, who aged 11 started in the RA Schools where he was known as 'The Child'.

Further interventions in Burlington House will include:

- An impressive installation of three dimensional details from buildings designed by current architect Academicians, curated by Spencer de Grey RA, which will be displayed across a three-story vertical wall, an affirmation of British architecture both today and in the future.
- Yinka Shonibare's *Cheeky Little Astronomer*, 2013, which will take pride of place in the sculpture niche outside the Grand Café.
- *An Allegory of Painting: A Project by Sarah Pickstone* which will feature two new wall and ceiling paintings by Sarah Pickstone (September 2018 – September 2019). A graduate of the RA Schools, she will celebrate the work of Angelica Kauffman RA, one of the two female founding members of the Academy.
- Already open to the public, *Richard Deacon RA Selects* presents his own selection of sculptures by Royal Academicians from the RA Collection, spanning over 200 years.

Alongside the transformation of the RA's physical space, the first phase of a new online platform <https://roy.ac/collection> has launched to open up the RA Collection to be more accessible to audiences worldwide. Comprising paintings, sculptures, artists' letters and books from the RA Collection, over 10,000 items have been newly digitised with the support of the National Lottery. The RA worked with Fabrique, the award-winning designers of the Rijksmuseum's website.

Notes to Editors

Quotes

Christopher Le Brun, President, Royal Academy of Arts, said: "Royal Academicians are at the heart of everything we do - they govern the Academy and are responsible for its direction. British visual art and architecture has achieved outstanding international success in recent decades and the proof of the Academy's resurgence in the twenty-first century is that among our Academicians we have world-class painters, sculptors, printmakers and architects. For the first time in 2018, our visitors will be able to see more of their work in dedicated changing displays of art and architecture, past and present, for free."

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive of the Heritage Lottery Fund, said: "The Royal Academy of Arts is one of London's stand-out cultural attractions. Whilst already a highly-respected institution, this ambitious project to help the Academy make a step change has become increasingly urgent. National Lottery players have supported these plans with £12.7m of funding for restoration work, the creation of new learning spaces and implementation of conservation apprenticeships and student placements. We can't wait to see the end result in May 2018."

Charles Saumarez Smith, Secretary and Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Arts, said: "The physical transformation of the site will fundamentally change our almost 250-year old institution. We are, first and foremost, artist and architect-led, home to a community of the world's greatest artists and architects, and a centre for training artists, with practitioners and

an art school at our heart. This is not just a major building development; it is an undertaking which will transform the psychological, as well as the physical, nature of the Academy. At long last, we will be able to open up the RA and share with the public more of our mission to promote the understanding, appreciation and practice of art and architecture.”

Sir David Chipperfield CBE RA, Architect, said: “The project is an architectural solution embedded in the place itself, a series of subtle interventions which will add up to something very different. The big change is that the Royal Academy have two entrances; a front door facing Piccadilly in the south and a new front door to Burlington Gardens, Cork Street and Bond Street. You will be able to go from an exhibition in Burlington House to a lecture in Burlington Gardens through the vaults of the building. You will see the Cast Corridor and you will see where the RA Schools have been all this time. It’s a small amount of architecture for a profound result.”

Tim Marlow, Artistic Director, Royal Academy of Arts, said: “In 2018 the new Royal Academy will become the most animated cultural campus in central London, running all the way through from Piccadilly to Mayfair. The redevelopment gives us amazing flexibility and capacity to be much more ambitious with our public programming, our exhibitions, learning and debate.”

The Lord Davies of Abersoch CBE, Chairman of the Royal Academy Development Trust, said: “The Royal Academy is an independent charity - we do not receive revenue funding from government and so are completely reliant upon the generosity of others to continue what we do. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the National Lottery as well as for the gifts from individuals, trusts and foundations. We are extremely grateful to all who have supported our ambitious plans, along with our public appeal ‘Make Your Mark’, and look forward to welcoming them all to the new Royal Academy in May 2018.”

Hani Kablawi, Chairman of Europe, Middle East and Africa, BNY Mellon, said: “During our 11-year partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts, BNY Mellon has had the privilege to support a number of remarkable exhibitions. As the Royal Academy’s official Anniversary Partner, BNY Mellon is proud to be celebrating with the RA as it unveils its new campus and delighted to support a number of elements of the RA250 programme, starting with *Charles I: King and Collector*, a momentous exhibition that provides a fitting opening to this landmark year for the Royal Academy.”

New Royal Academy of Arts

Dates and Opening Hours

Press Launch: Monday 14 May 2018

Open to public: Saturday 19 May 2018, open daily 10am – 6pm (last admission 5.30pm) and Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

Tacita Dean: LANDSCAPE

Supported by

Art Fund_ COCKAYNE **The London
Community
Foundation**

Dates and Opening Hours

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Admission for Tacita Dean: LANDSCAPE

Tickets £14 full price (£12 without Gift Aid donation); 50% off with National Art Pass / £6; concessions available; children under 16 and Friends of the RA go free. All tickets include a multimedia guide. Tickets are available daily at the RA or visit royalacademy.org.uk. Group bookings: Groups of 10+ are asked to book in advance. Telephone 020 7300 8027 or email groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk.

Images

Publicity images of the Royal Academy of Arts and *Tacita Dean: LANDSCAPE* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.picselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

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#RA250

#TheNewRA

#TacitaDean

Transforming the Royal Academy of Arts

The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the National Lottery, the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting the two-acre site. The redevelopment also includes the conservation of the façade of 6 Burlington Gardens, refurbished galleries for temporary exhibitions, the RA Collection and the RA Schools, new spaces for our Academic and Learning programmes and improved visitor facilities. For more information on the RA visit <https://roy.ac/ra250video>.

The redevelopment has been funded with a £12.7 million grant from the National Lottery. Major support has also been received from a number of private individuals, including Mrs

Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler, Ronald and Rita McAulay, The McLennan Family, the Mead Family Foundation, Mr and Mrs Robert Miller and Sir Simon and Lady Robertson, as well as trusts and foundations including The Blavatnik Family Foundation, Clore Duffield Foundation, The Dorfman Foundation, Dunard Fund, The Foyle Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation, The Monument Trust, The Rothschild Foundation and The Wolfson Foundation.

The Royal Academy of Arts has launched a public appeal 'Make Your Mark' to raise £3 million to help complete its transformative redevelopment, realise the ambitious plans for its 250th anniversary in 2018 and to ensure the next 250 years of the Academy as Britain's foremost independent, artist and architect-led institution. For further information visit: <https://roy.ac/mym>

Royal Academy 250th anniversary Exhibition Programme 2018

Main Galleries

- *Charles I: King and Collector* (27 January – 15 April 2018)
- *Oceania* (29 September – 10 December 2018)

RA Schools Studios

- *RA Schools Show 2018* (6 June – 1 July 2018)

Main Galleries and Sackler Wing of Galleries

- *250th Summer Exhibition* (12 June – 19 August 2018)

The John Madejski Fine Rooms, Weston Rooms, Galleries I and II

- *The Great Spectacle: 250 Years of the Summer Exhibition* (12 June – 19 August 2018)

The Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries

- *Tacita Dean: LANDSCAPE* (19 May - 12 August 2018)
- *Renzo Piano* (15 September 2018 – 20 January 2019)

The Sackler Wing of Galleries

- *From Life* (Until 11 March 2018)
- *Premiums Interim Projects 2018* (28 March – 29 April 2018)
- *Klimt/Schiele: Drawings from the Albertina Museum, Vienna* (4 November 2018 – 3 February 2019)

For more information visit: <https://roy.ac/2018>



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RA250 Anniversary Partner

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