

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS ELECTS NEW MEMBERS AND ANNOUNCES NEW HONORARY ACADEMICIANS, FELLOWS AND THE ERANDA PROFESSOR OF DRAWING

The Royal Academy of Arts elects the architect Louisa Hutton and sculptor Rebecca Warren as new Royal Academicians; the artist El Anatsui and architect Peter Zumthor as Honorary Academicians; the theatre director Nicholas Hytner and author Svetlana Alpers as Honorary Fellows; and the artist Michael Landy RA as the new Eranda Professor of Drawing at the Royal Academy Schools.

ROYAL ACADEMICIANS

Louisa Hutton (born 1957, Norwich)

Category of Membership: Architecture

Louisa Hutton is an architect, partner of Sauerbruch Hutton and visiting professor at Harvard Graduate School of Design. Born in Norwich in 1957, Hutton studied at Bristol University and the Architectural Association in London. Together with Matthias Sauerbruch she founded Sauerbruch Hutton in London in 1989 and relocated to Berlin in 1991. Louisa Hutton and Matthias Sauerbruch gained international renown for their early and comprehensive engagement with sustainability in architecture and urbanism. Their best known works are the GSW Headquarters in Berlin, the Federal Environment Agency in Dessau and the Brandhorst Museum in Munich.

Rebecca Warren (born 1965, London)

Category of Membership: Sculpture

Rebecca Warren was born in London in 1965, where she now lives and works. Warren studied at Goldsmiths College, London and Chelsea College of Art (1992-3) and was nominated for the Turner Prize in 2006. Working mainly in unfired clay and bronze, Warren employs various strategies - appropriating and referencing images by a wide range of artists, exhibiting detritus from her studio, and producing rough, unfinished, sometimes damaged-looking sculptures - in a contemplation of self-expression, gender, and sculptural form, and an interrogation of the accepted hierarchies of display and art-historical significance. The Kunsthalle Zürich mounted a solo exhibition of her work in 2004. Other recent solo shows include Kunstverein, Munich, 2013; Museum Dhondt, Ghent, 2012 and Art Institute of Chicago, 2010.

HONORARY ACADEMICIANS

El Anatsui (born 1944, Anyako, Ghana)

El Anatsui is an internationally acclaimed artist, whose sculptural experiments with media and form have pushed the definition of sculpture itself. In particular, his instantly recognisable metal wall-hangings continue to receive widespread recognition and interest. Throughout a distinguished forty-year career as both an artist and teacher, El Anatsui has addressed a wide range of social, political and historical concerns and has embraced an equally diverse range of media and processes. Using anything from chainsaws and welding torches to copper wire, he has shaped materials ranging from

cassava graters and railway sleepers to driftwood, iron nails and most notably, liquor bottle-tops. In 2013, one of his largest wall-hangings, *TSIATSIA – searching for connection*, adorned the façade of Burlington House as part of the Royal Academy of Arts' *Summer Exhibition 2013*; it also won the prestigious Charles Wollaston Award that year. El Anatsui is the first artist from Africa to be appointed an Honorary Royal Academician.

Peter Zumthor (born 1943, Basel, Switzerland)

Architect Peter Zumthor founded his small yet uncompromising Swiss practice in 1979. In a body of work spanning 30 years, his best known projects are the Kunsthaus Bregenz (1997), a glass, steel and cast concrete contemporary art museum overlooking Lake Constance in Austria; the stone, quarry-like thermal baths in Vals, Switzerland (1996) and the timber structure of the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion, London (2011). In essence, Zumthor's work displays a refined selection of materials beautifully crafted and detailed that are used to create contemplative spaces with a profound spiritual dimension. His exceptional design talent and respect amongst his peers is demonstrated by many prizes and by international recognition. He has been awarded the Mies van der Rohe Award for European Architecture, Praemium Imperiale, the Architecture Prize from the Bund Deutscher Architekten (BDA), the Pritzker Architecture Prize and the RIBA Royal Gold Medal.

HONORARY FELLOWS

Svetlana Alpers

Svetlana Alpers is an art historian, critic and writer, specialising in Dutch Golden Age painting, although she has also written on Tiepolo, Rubens, Breugel, and Velazquez, among others. She is the author of many books including *The Art of Describing, Rembrandt's Enterprise, Tiepolo and the Pictorial Intelligence* (with Michael Baxandall), *The Vexations of Art* and most recently *Roof Life*. She is Professor Emerita of History of Art at the University of California, Berkeley and Visiting Scholar in the Department of Art History, New York University.

Nicholas Hytner

Nicholas Hytner was born in Manchester in 1956. He was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Cambridge University, and worked widely in repertory theatre, at the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has been Director of the National Theatre since 2003, where his productions include *Hamlet, One Man Two Guvnors, The History Boys* and *Othello*, and where he introduced the Travelex ticket seasons and National Theatre Live cinema broadcasts. His work in opera includes productions for The Royal Opera House, ENO and Glyndebourne; he is also a member of the Board of the Royal Opera House and of the BBC Executive Board. In 2010 he was knighted for services to drama.

PROFESSOR FOR THE RA SCHOOLS

Michael Landy RA

Eranda Professor of Drawing

Michael Landy trained at Loughborough College of Art (1981-3) and Goldsmiths College, London (1985-8). In his final year he contributed to Freeze and in 1997 his work was included in *Sensation* at the Royal Academy of Arts: an exhibition of Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection. He was elected as a member of the Royal Academy in 2008. Landy has used monumental installations

and performances to explore political and social issues, such as the nature of consumerism, the commodification of art and the value placed on human beings in the corporate world. He is also a draughtsman, producing intimate portraits of his acquaintances as well as meticulously rendered botanical drawings.

The position of Eranda Professor of Drawing complements other Professorships at the Royal Academy Schools including Anatomy, Architecture, Chemistry, Computer Vision, Painting, Perspective and Sculpture. The post was created in 2000, thanks to the generosity of the Eranda Foundation. The following artists have held the position: Christopher Le Brun RA, Sir Peter Blake, Gary Hume RA, Ian McKeever RA and Tracey Emin RA.

Notes to Editors:

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The Royal Academy of Arts is governed by 80 Royal Academicians who are all practising painters, sculptors, engravers, printmakers, draughtsmen and architects. On reaching the age of 75 they become Senior Academicians thus initiating vacancies for new Members. Elections are held at regular meetings of the General Assembly, when new Members are voted in by existing RAs.

The Royal Academy Trust is a registered charity (Registered charity number 1067270) founded in 1981 for the maintenance, development, advancement and preservation of the Royal Academy of Arts. The Trust manages the Trust Fund and the Trustees help to raise money to support and promote the objectives. The Trust supports all areas of the Royal Academy's work including the exhibition programme, RA Schools, education programme, the Academy's Collection and the Burlington Project. The Trust is chaired by Lord Davies and currently consists of 24 members including the President of the Royal Academy and the Treasurer of the Royal Academy.

About the Royal Academy Schools

The Schools have been an integral part of the Royal Academy of Arts since its foundation in 1768. Past students of the RA Schools include JMW Turner, William Blake and John Constable. More recent alumni include John Hoyland, Anthony Caro, Paul Huxley, Matthew Darbyshire, Rachael Champion, Hannah Sawtell, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, nominated for the Turner Prize this year, Lucy Williams, Catherine Story, Prem Sahib and Eddie Peake.

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