

**Life Room: Anatomy of a Doll**

1 – 14 April 2017

Life Room, RA Schools

In April Cathie Pilkington, Royal Academician and Professor of Sculpture at the Royal Academy Schools, will present a new project *Life Room: Anatomy of a Doll*. Known for her unsettling sculptural bricolages, Pilkington has created new work for this display, bringing these peculiar doll-like creations to the heart of the longest established art school in the UK.

Inspired by Edgar Degas and his series of wax figure ballerinas, Pilkington will respond to his idealised dancers by overwriting their traditional figures with re-imagined, voyeuristic sculptures. Her sculpted 'dollies', with their two-faced heads and strange anatomies, will be displayed in various stages of completion, revealing the creative process behind Pilkington's sculptural practice. By presenting these doll-like works as fusions of both sculpture and toys, Pilkington will highlight the duality of her personality as both an artist and a mother, sharing her experience of combining disparate identities.

The display of *Anatomy of a Doll* in the RA's historic Life Room draws upon the traditional use of the space for exploring and documenting anatomy, through the process of life drawing. Alongside her 'dollies', Pilkington will create contemporary drawings and sculptural shelf-structures to accompany the existing busts, casts and architecture from the RA Collections, bringing into focus the importance of the room to the making, teaching and debating of art.

Cathie Pilkington RA said, 'I have always been driven by an obsession for material language and a need to make objects that occupy real space. I am as interested in making autonomous, singular objects as I am in every aspect of their making process, storage and display. Simultaneous engagement and estrangement is central to this work.'

Cathie Pilkington RA is a London-based sculptor and a figurative artist, renowned for crafting ambivalent forms. Her sculptural practice combines the interrelated and antagonistic worlds of fine art and craft. Pilkington studied BA Silversmithing at Edinburgh College of Art (1985–91) and was awarded the first John Watson Prize for Art upon graduating in 1991, with a show at the Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh. She went on to study Sculpture at the Royal College of Art (1995–97) following which she was awarded the Cheltenham Fine Art Fellowship in 1998. Pilkington has previously showed with Bruton Gallery, Bath (1992) and was in the 1st RWA Open Sculpture Exhibition (1993). She is currently represented by Marlborough Fine Art, where she had solo shows in 2007, 2010 and 2014. She became a Royal Academician in May 2014 and was elected as Professor of Sculpture for the RA Schools in January 2016.

## Notes to Editors

### Exhibition Tour

Royal Academy Schools, London

1 – 14 April 2017

Brighton Festival

6 – 28 May 2017

### Dates and Opening Hours

Saturday 1 – Friday 14 April 2017

Escorted tours 11am and 2pm daily

### Admission

£5. Booking required. For further information: <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/project-cathie-pilkington-anatomy-of-a-doll>

### Images

Publicity images for *Life Room: Anatomy of a Doll* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at [www.picselect.com](http://www.picselect.com) and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

### Social Media

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

Facebook /royalacademy

Instagram @royalacademyarts

Twitter @royalacademy

#RASchools

### Events

#### Courses and Classes

##### **Exquisite Corpse: A Masterclass with Cathie Pilkington RA**

*The Life Room, RA Schools, 8 & 9 April 2017, 10.30am – 5.30pm*

Award-winning sculptor and figurative artist Cathie Pilkington RA leads this exclusive weekend masterclass, inviting participants to use independent and collective practices to produce drawings, collage and finally sculpture.

£580. Includes all materials, lunch and wine reception on the second day.

For further information and to book: <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/event/courses-classes-exquisite-corpse-masterclass-with-cathie-pilkington-ra>

### 2017 RA Schools Programme

#### **Royal Academy Schools Annual Dinner and Auction**

Tuesday 14 March 2017

RA Schools sponsored by Newton Investment Management

Supported by Sotheby's

The 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual fundraiser for the Royal Academy Schools will be hosted by Trustee and Chair of the RA Patrons Rob Suss to support the RA Schools, which meets the cost of tuition fees for all students accepted onto the course. Held at Burlington House, guests at this exclusive black tie gala will view an exhibition of works donated by Royal Academicians and recently graduated RA Schools students. A live auction of the works will be led by Lord Poltimore, Deputy

Chairman of Sotheby's, Europe. For information and to book: <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/royal-academy-schools-annual-dinner-and-auction-2017>

## **RA Schools Show**

### **RA Schools Studios**

22 June – 2 July 2017

Early Access: Wednesday 21 June

The *RA Schools Show* is the annual exhibition of works by artists graduating from the UK's longest established contemporary art school, the RA Schools. The show will present work by emerging artists in a range of media with each exhibiting in solo spaces in the rarely-seen working studios within the Royal Academy. The show will coincide with the Summer Exhibition which was established in 1769 to finance the training of young artists in the RA Schools.

For further information: <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/ra-schools-show-2017>

## **About the RA Schools**

The RA Schools, led by the Keeper of the Royal Academy, Eileen Cooper RA, have been an integral part of the Royal Academy of Arts since its foundation in 1768 and is the longest established art school in the UK. The RA Schools offers the only free three-year postgraduate programme in Europe.

Current Professors include David Remfry RA, Chantal Joffe RA, Cathie Pilkington RA, Piers Gough RA, Humphrey Ocean RA, Gerald Libby, Tim Green and Roberto Cipolla. Past students of the RA Schools include JMW Turner RA, William Blake and John Constable RA. More recent alumni include John Hoyland RA, Anthony Caro RA, Paul Huxley RA, Matthew Darbyshire, Rachael Champion, Toby Christian, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Lucy Williams, Hannah Sawtell, Catherine Story, Prem Sahib and Eddie Peake.

## **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 RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting and revitalising the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public [the historic treasures in its Collection](#), the work of its [Academicians](#) and [the RA Schools](#), alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. For more information on the RA visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video)

**For public information please print 020 7300 8090 and [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)**

**Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD**

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