



Summer Exhibition 2020

Main Galleries

6 October 2020 – 3 January 2021



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The Royal Academy is delighted to present this year's Summer Exhibition. For the first time in its long history it is taking place in the autumn, due to a delay caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. At a time when artists have been denied important opportunities to show work, the 252nd Summer Exhibition is a unique celebration of contemporary art and architecture, providing a vital platform and support for the artistic community. It remains the world's largest open submission contemporary art show and has been held every year without interruption since 1769, even throughout the war years.

Jane and Louise Wilson RA are co-ordinators of the 252nd Summer Exhibition in 2020, the first time it is curated by an artistic duo. Working with the rest of the Summer Exhibition Committee they seek to challenge the definition of what community is and what form collective communities can begin to take. Themes this year reflect upon identity, immigration, contested borders, ecological threat, climate change, pro-democracy protest and landscape, in the form of installation, painting, film, photography and sculpture. Due to exceptional circumstances, much of the preparation for this year's exhibition has been done virtually for the first time.

Jane and Louise Wilson have curated the Large and Small Weston Rooms, along with the Wohl Central Hall. These rooms feature artists including Korakrit Arunanondchai, David Batchelor, Ori Gersht, Joy Labinjo, Elizabeth Magill, Rosalind Nashashibi, Eddie Peake and John Smith, along with their own work. A new element this year is the introduction of 'invisible walls' in one gallery space, supports that are suspended from the ceiling on wires for video screens, adding another dimension to the hang.

Isaac Julien RA has curated the first two galleries and his selection of invited artists is an homage to the late curator and art historian Okwui Enwezor (1963-2019). Many of the artists whose careers Enwezor influenced have contributed work and include El Anatsui Hon RA, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Theaster Gates, Glenn Ligon, Oscar Murillo, Wangechi Mutu, Chris Ofili and Isaac Julien himself.

Sculptor Richard Deacon RA has curated the sculpture gallery including work by RAs Phyllida Barlow, David Nash and Conrad Shawcross. Two RAs have curated their galleries virtually; Eileen Cooper managing prints and Stephen Farthing who was working from Jordan curating galleries 3 and 9. Sonia Boyce RA encouraged many artists who have never shown at the Summer Exhibition to contribute to her gallery. Eva Jiricna RA has curated the Architecture Gallery featuring work by RAs and Hon RAs including Farshid Moussavi, Renzo Piano, Richard Rogers and Chris Wilkinson. David Remfry RA has

curated gallery 8 with a mix of public submissions and a small number of works by RAs. Other Royal Academicians and Honorary Academicians showcasing new works in the exhibition include Tracey Emin, Rebecca Horn, Anselm Kiefer, Mimmo Paladino, Gillian Wearing and Ai Weiwei.

Works from all over the world were judged democratically on merit and the final selection was made during the eight-day hang in the galleries. This year the Royal Academy received over 18,000 entries, of which around 1100 works, in a range of media, are on display. This open, inclusive and democratic show supports the artistic community, art education and provides a display of creativity and joy for the public. Now, more than ever, the Royal Academy is committed to supporting artists and architects and a belief in the restorative power of art.

The majority of works in the Summer Exhibition are for sale, offering visitors an opportunity to purchase original work. Funds raised support the exhibiting artists, the postgraduate students studying in the RA Schools and the not-for-profit work of the Royal Academy.

Notes to Editors

Summer Exhibition 2020 online

Many of the works in the Summer Exhibition 2020 are available to browse and buy online through the [Summer Exhibition Explorer](#). For the first time, the Royal Academy is presenting a virtual [Viewing Room](#) experience, sharing a curator's selection of a number of key works in this year's exhibition, alongside a video tour of the galleries.

Summer Exhibition 2020 Committee

Committee members are Royal Academicians Sonia Boyce, Eileen Cooper, Richard Deacon, Stephen Farthing, Isaac Julien and David Remfry and Jane and Louise Wilson. Eva Jiricna has curated the Architecture Gallery. The committee is chaired by the President of the Royal Academy, Rebecca Salter. The members of the Summer Exhibition Committee serve in rotation, ensuring that every year the exhibition has a distinctive character, with each Royal Academician responsible for a particular gallery space.

Submissions

Submissions for the Summer Exhibition 2020 closed on Monday 17 February 2020 and the first round of judging took place with the Committee before the UK went into lockdown in March. Royal Academicians and the artists invited to take part by the Committee submitted their work in August 2020. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic there is no sculpture in the Annenberg Courtyard or work in The McAulay Gallery.

Prizes

Over £62,500 will be offered in awards and prizes for every category of work in the Summer Exhibition.

The Royal Academy of Arts Charles Wollaston Award

£25,000 awarded by a panel of judges appointed by the President and Council for the most distinguished work in the exhibition.

The Jack Goldhill Award for Sculpture

£10,000 for a sculpture.

The Jerwood London Original Print Fair Prize

£10,000 for a print in any medium.

The British Institution Awards for Students

Two prizes of £5,000 and £3,000 for work across a comprehensive range of creative disciplines from painting to architecture.

The Hugh Casson Drawing Prize

£5,000 for an original work on paper in any medium, where the emphasis is clearly on drawing.

The Sunny Dupree Family Award for a Woman Artist

£4,000 for a painting or sculpture.

The Arts Club Award

£2,500 awarded to an artist aged 35 or under for a work in any medium except architecture.

Dates and Opening Hours

Open to public: Tuesday 6 October 2020 – Sunday 3 January 2021
10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)

Admission

From £18; concessions available; under 16s go free ([T&Cs apply](#)); Friends of the RA go free. Admission prices include the List of Works giving details on every exhibit in the show.

Tickets

Advance booking is essential for everyone, including Friends of the RA. All visitors must have a pre-booked timed ticket to enter the building. Tickets can be booked in advance online (royalacademy.org.uk) or over the phone (0207 300 8090).

Images

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Supporter's Statement

Abdallah Nauphal, Chief Executive Officer, Insight Investment said: "In a year in which many of the UK's most important cultural institutions are dealing with unprecedented challenges, it is encouraging that the Summer Exhibition, the world's largest open submission contemporary art show, has received a positive response from the public in terms of the number of submissions in 2020. The exhibition is a significant cultural event which supports the exchange of ideas and experience of artists from all walks of life. The Royal Academy's determination to persevere to ensure its continuity demonstrates the important role that arts institutions play in shaping the cultural conversation. Insight has sponsored the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition for 14 years and we are proud to have supported the RA in 2020 as they strive to maintain the unbroken record of 252 consecutive Summer Exhibitions. We hope that everyone can continue to enjoy this wonderful event for many more years to come."

About Insight Investment

Insight Investment is a leading global investment manager, founded in 2002 and headquartered in London. Insight primarily manages money for pension schemes by providing liability-driven investment strategies and investing in fixed income and currency and multi-asset. Insight takes responsible investment seriously. It was a founding signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and has been integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into decision-making processes for more than a decade. Insight's approach is underpinned by the belief that ESG issues are important drivers of investment value. In 2020, Insight was awarded A+ ratings by the PRI for strategy and governance, and for the integration of responsible investment-related issues across our fixed income business. We believe this reflects our ongoing commitment to integrating responsible investment practices across all aspects of our business. More information about Insight Investment can be found at: www.insightinvestment.com

History of the Summer Exhibition

One of the founding principles of the Royal Academy of Arts was to "mount an annual exhibition open to all artists of distinguished merit" to finance the training of young artists in the Royal Academy Schools. The Summer Exhibition has been held every year without interruption since 1769 and continues to play a significant part in raising funds to finance the students of the RA Schools. The RA Schools is the longest established art school in the UK and offers the only free three-year postgraduate programme in Europe. As the world's largest open submission contemporary art show, the Summer Exhibition provides a unique platform for emerging and established artists to showcase their works to an international audience, comprising a range of media from painting and printmaking to photography, sculpture, architecture and film. Royal Academicians are automatically entitled to submit up to six works to the Summer Exhibition and the rest of the exhibition features work by those invited by the committee and external entrants.

Social Media

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

Facebook /royalacademy

Instagram @royalacademyarts

Twitter @royalacademy

#RASummer

#summernotsummer

Additional visiting information

Gauguin and the Impressionists: Masterpieces from the Ordrupgaard Collection will be open to the public until 18 October 2020. From 6 October 2020, the opening times: Monday to Sunday, 10am – 6pm. Advance booking is essential.

Safety measures

The health and safety of visitors and staff is paramount. New safety measures for visitors can be found on the RA website: royalacademy.org.uk/visiting-and-safety-during-coronavirus.

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 is an independent charity. It does not receive revenue funding from the government so is reliant upon the support of its visitors, donors, sponsors, patrons and loyal Friends.

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