

**ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS EXHIBITION PROGRAMME 2021****Francis Bacon: Man and Beast**

Main Galleries

30 January – 18 April 2021

*Supported by Petr Aven*

In January 2021, the Royal Academy of Arts will present *Francis Bacon: Man and Beast*, the first exhibition to chart the development of the artist's work through the lens of his fascination with animals, and how this impacted upon his treatment of his ultimate subject: the human figure. Francis Bacon (1909–1992) is recognised as one of the most important artists of the twentieth century. Since his death, the world has changed in ways that make his unnerving work ever more prescient. This important exhibition will include 45 remarkable paintings spanning his career; from his earliest works of the 1930s and 40s through to the final painting he ever made in 1991, which will be exhibited publicly for the first time in the UK. Among the works, a trio of paintings of bullfights, all made in 1969, will also be displayed together for the first time.

**Michael Armitage: Paradise Edict**

The Jillian and Arthur M. Sackler Wing of Galleries

13 March – 6 June 2021

In March 2021, the Royal Academy of Arts will present an exhibition of Kenyan-born artist Michael Armitage (b. 1984). Armitage graduated from the RA Schools in 2010 and now works between Nairobi and London. In his paintings, Armitage brings together the Western painting tradition (drawing on Titian, Goya, Manet and Gauguin among others) with East African contemporary art, popular culture and politics. Painted on Ugandan lubugo bark cloth, these large-scale works have an oneiric quality, in tension with their thought-provoking subject-matter exploring politics, history, contemporary events and sexuality. The exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts will span the last six years of Armitage's work, featuring landscapes, allegorical figures and paintings inspired by the 2017 Kenyan general election. Also on display will be a group of works by East African artists, such as Jak Katarikawe (1938-2018), Theresa Musoke (b. 1944) and Meek Gichugu (b. 1968), selected by Armitage for their importance to the development of figurative painting in Kenya and to his artistic development. Alongside his work, Armitage recently founded the Nairobi Contemporary Art Institute, a non-profit visual arts space.

Exhibition organised by Haus der Kunst, Munich, in collaboration with the Royal Academy of Arts, London.

## [David Hockney: The Arrival of Spring, Normandy, 2020](#)

The Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries

27 March – 22 August 2021

*The Arrival of Spring, Normandy, 2020* comprises a new body of work created by David Hockney RA during a period of intense activity at his home in Normandy and charts the unfolding and progression of spring. The period in which these works were made coincided with the beginning of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, where Hockney, along with the rest of Europe and much of the world, was in a state of lockdown. Faced with an unprecedented and perplexing period, Hockney's focus on the emergence of spring instead celebrates the natural world and urges us, as he does himself in one of his frequently used phrases, to 'love life'. The works have been 'painted' on an iPad, and then printed on paper at a large-scale. They will be presented in the order in which they were created, with the deliberate density of the hang evoking a sense of emersion in nature across the three galleries.

## [Summer Exhibition 2021](#)

Main Galleries

15 June – 17 August 2021

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The Royal Academy's annual Summer Exhibition, the world's largest open submission contemporary art show, is now in its 253<sup>rd</sup> year. It provides a unique platform for emerging and established artists to showcase their works to an international audience, comprising a range of media from painting, printmaking and photography, to sculpture, architecture and film. It has been held each year without interruption since 1769. Around 1200 works will go on display, the majority of which will be for sale offering visitors an opportunity to purchase original work.

## [Milton Avery](#)

The Jillian and Arthur M. Sackler Wing of Galleries

3 July – 26 September 2021

Milton Avery (1885-1965) has long been recognised in the United States as one of the most important and influential twentieth-century American artists. Avery's compositions, taken from daily life, including portraits and landscapes, are imbued with a colour sensibility, harmony and balance which was to have a major influence on the next artistic generation. Avery played a vital role in the development of Abstract Expressionism, through his close association with some of the younger exponents of the movement, such as Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman and Adolph Gottlieb. His work defies distinct categorisation, falling between the time of the American Impressionists and the Abstract Expressionists, both of which had a significant impact on his oeuvre. Avery was famously prolific, and this survey will feature a careful selection of around seventy of his most celebrated paintings from the early 1930s to the 1960s. The last retrospective of his work was held at the

Whitney Museum of American Art in 1982 and this will be the first solo exhibition of Milton Avery in Europe.

Exhibition organised by the Royal Academy of Arts, London in collaboration with The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas and the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford (CT).

### [Marina Abramović: After Life](#)

Main Galleries

25 September – 12 December 2021

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*Supported by the Marina Abramović After Life Circle*

In September 2021, the Royal Academy of Arts will present a solo exhibition of the internationally acclaimed performance artist Marina Abramović Hon RA. The exhibition will be Abramović's first major survey in the UK, bringing together key works spanning her entire career. The exhibition will explore how Abramović captures and defines performance art through photographs, videos, objects, installations and live re-performances of her work, reflecting Abramović's interest in the legacy of performance art. A number of new works conceived especially for the exhibition will also be presented. This exhibition continues the Royal Academy's strand of programming that has showcased some of the most important living artists.

### [Herzog & de Meuron](#)

The Jillian and Arthur M. Sackler Wing of Galleries

23 October 2021 – 23 January 2022

In Autumn 2021, the Royal Academy of Arts will present an exhibition of the critically acclaimed architectural practice Herzog & de Meuron, founded in Basel in 1978. With projects across the globe, the work of the practice continues to astound and inspire, as they transform what might otherwise be an ordinary condition or material into something extraordinary that engages with the senses. Notable projects include Tate Modern, London (2000 and 2016) and the National Stadium, Beijing (2008). In this exhibition at the Royal Academy, Herzog & de Meuron will explore ways of exhibiting architecture at this critical moment in time. The exhibition will focus on the processes and working methods applied to produce a diverse, yet specific range of current projects, creatively embracing the possibilities of digital and analogue tools in the perception and experience of architecture and its surrounding contexts.

### [Late Constable](#)

The Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries

30 October 2021 – 13 February 2022

In 2021, the Royal Academy will present an exhibition on the late work of John Constable (1776-1837). The exhibition's point of departure is the last of Constable's celebrated six-foot Suffolk canal scenes, *The Leaping Horse*, one of the highlights of the RA's collection, first exhibited in 1825. It is in this

painting that, by inserting the detail of the tower of Dedham Church, Constable first departs from the notion of topographical accuracy which had been a hallmark of his work until that date. Distinguished by its rich technical vocabulary, the artist's late work, though often conservative in subject matter, becomes increasingly expressive in style. The exhibition will explore Constable's late career, from 1825 until his unexpected death in 1837, through his paintings and oil sketches as well as watercolours, drawings and prints. It will be arranged in chronological order exploring the extensive cross-fertilisation of his ideas between different media.

## **RA Schools Show 2021**

RA Schools Studios and Weston Studio

17 – 27 June 2021

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# STEWARTS

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.

## **Notes to Editors**

### **Tickets and Opening Hours**

Tickets go on sale several months before an exhibition opens. To book tickets in advance visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk). Currently advance booking is essential for everyone, including Friends of the RA. All visitors must have a pre-booked timed ticket to enter the building.

Friends of the Royal Academy enjoy free entry to all RA exhibitions with a family guest as well as exclusive previews and private views, special events, discounts in the RA Shop and much more. For further information please visit: [www.royalacademy.org.uk/friends](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/friends). For further information on ticket prices and opening hours, contact the RA Press Office or refer to the RA website: [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

## **Images**

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#RA2021

## **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](https://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.

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