



The Royal Academy of Arts will celebrate The Queen's 90th birthday with an awards ceremony recognising figures in the visual arts and architecture

On Tuesday 11 October 2016, the Royal Academy of Arts will celebrate the role of their Royal Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, in her 90th year with a reception and an awards ceremony. The Queen will be accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh.

Christopher Le Brun, President of the Royal Academy of Arts, said, "We are delighted to receive The Queen at the Royal Academy in her 90th year. In celebration and recognition of her support for the arts, those who have made a valued contribution will be honoured. The list of award winners shows the great breadth of achievements during Her Majesty's reign. In this time the arts have been significantly transformed, are now more prominent in national life and more internationally successful than ever before."

The awards ceremony will recognise five individuals who have made a significant contribution as practitioners or educators in the fields of visual arts or architecture. The nominations came from five Royal Academicians; Chantal Joffe, Farshid Moussavi, Grayson Perry, Conrad Shawcross and Yinka Shonibare.

The five nominees are:

- David Adjaye, architect (nominated by Yinka Shonibare RA)
- Iwona Blazwick, Director, Whitechapel Gallery (nominated by Farshid Moussavi RA)
- Chris Fisher, Artist and teacher at Royal College of Art and Goldsmiths (nominated by Chantal Joffe RA)
- Martin Parr, photographer (nominated by Grayson Perry RA)
- Cornelia Parker RA (nominated by Conrad Shawcross RA)

The Queen will be presented with a bronze sculpture of a 900 year old oak tree from Windsor Great Park, produced by Factum Arte. This ancient tree symbolises both the longevity of the monarchy and the new pioneering digital technologies inspiring contemporary creativity. Each nominee will be presented with a bronze acorn from the tree.

During the reception, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will meet Royal Academicians, artists, musicians, designers, actors, dancers and supporters, as well as representatives from the Royal Academies of Dance, Dramatic Art and Music. The Queen last visited the Royal Academy in 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee.

Charles Saumarez Smith, Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Arts, said, "We feel privileged to be able to mark this historic occasion by honouring these individuals who have made

such an impact in the arts. As the Royal Academy approaches its 250th anniversary in 2018, when we will reveal our transformative redevelopment, we will continue to be the voice of artists and architects for many centuries to come. We are proud of our royal heritage and look forward to welcoming Her Majesty again in the future. We are also happy to welcome our fellow Royal Academies to celebrate this important moment.”

Social Media

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Notes to Editors

Nominee biographies

David Adjaye OBE (nominated by [Yinka Shonibare RA](#))

David Adjaye OBE is a leading architect. Born in Tanzania to Ghanaian parents, he set up his studio as Adjaye Associates in 2000. In Oslo he designed the Nobel Peace Centre (2005). In London his design for the Whitechapel Idea Store (2005) pioneered a new approach. Later projects in London included the Stephen Lawrence Centre (2007), Rivington Place (2007), and the Bernie Grant Centre (2007). He is currently working on 70-73 Piccadilly (ongoing) and the Hackney Fashion Hub (ongoing). Adjaye Associates' largest completed project to date is the Moscow School of Management Skolkovo (2010). In the United States, Adjaye was the designer of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver (2007), two public libraries in Washington DC (2012), as well as of several residential projects. In 2009 a team led by Adjaye was selected to design the new Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington DC. The practice has also completed a social housing scheme in New York's Sugar Hill (2014), The Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art at Harvard's Hutchins Center (2014), and is currently working on The Studio Museum in Harlem (ongoing), the Ruby City building for the Linda Pace Foundation, and a development for Four Seasons in Washington DC (ongoing). Adjaye frequently collaborates with contemporary artists on art and installation projects. Examples include *The Upper Room*, with thirteen paintings by Chris Ofili (2002), *Within Reach*, and the Thyssen-Bornemisza Art for the 21st Century Pavilion designed to show a work by Olafur Eliasson, *Your Black Horizon*, at the 2005 Venice Biennale. Adjaye recently collaborated with Okwui Enwezor on the design of the 56th Venice Art Biennale (2015). He was awarded the OBE for services to architecture in 2007, received the Design Miami/ Year of the Artist title in 2011, the Wall Street Journal Innovator Award in 2013 and the Panerai London Design Medal, awarded this year by the London Design Festival. In 2015 a comprehensive retrospective exhibition of his work to date was held at Haus der Kunst in Munich and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Iwona Blazwick (nominated by [Farshid Moussavi RA](#))

Iwona Blazwick is Director of the Whitechapel Gallery, London since 2001 and is a curator, critic and lecturer. She was formerly at Tate Modern where she co-curated the inaugural collection displays and Turbine Hall Projects. She was director of exhibitions at London's ICA, as well as working as an independent curator in Europe and Japan. She was also the founding Commissioning Editor for Contemporary Art at Phaidon Press. Blazwick has curated many monographic surveys of living artists, most recently including Sophie Calle, Isa Genzken, William Kentridge and Sarah Lucas; and art historical thematic exhibitions such as *Faces in the Crowd: Picturing Modern Life from Manet to Today*; and *Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society, 1915-2015*. She has commissioned site specific work from artists including Goshka Macuga and Rachel Whiteread; pioneered new curatorial strategies for the display of collections and archives; and curated outdoor sculpture exhibitions in Britain and Greece. She has written monographs and articles on many contemporary artists and published extensively on themes and movements in modern and contemporary art, exhibition histories and art institutions. She has served on many juries including the Kandinsky Prize; the Turner Prize; Venice Biennale Golden Lion award; the Vincent Prize; the Wolfgang Hahn Prize; and the Clark Institute Prize. She is Chair of the MaxMara Art Prize for Women and a jury member for the Jarman Artists' Film Award. Blazwick is a Trustee of Harewood House in Yorkshire; and serves on the Advisory Boards of the Government Art Collection; the Paul Mellon Centre for British Art; and the Trafalgar Square Fourth Plinth Commission. She is currently an advisor to the Istanbul Biennale and the MAXXI Museum in Rome. In 2007 she received an OBE for services to the arts; and in 2013 she was made an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Government. Blazwick is a fellow of the Royal College of Arts; and has honorary degrees from Goldsmiths College, the London Metropolitan Museum, Middlesex University, Plymouth University and the University of the Arts.

Chris Fisher (nominated by [Chantal Joffe RA](#))

Chris Fisher was born in 1950 and studied at Winchester School of Art, Central Saint Martins and the Royal College of Art. He graduated in 1973 and was appointed a tutor in Painting and Tapestry at the Royal College of Art from 1974 until 1994. He taught in the Fine Art Department of Goldsmiths College from 1974 until 2009. He was joint leader of the BA Fine Art Programme from 1993 and headed the programme from 1996 until his retirement in 2009. His work has included tapestries, prints, painting, translations and wood block engravings from the poems of Ponge, Holderlin and Mallarme. He has shown his work in joint exhibitions in England, Europe and America.

Martin Parr (nominated by [Grayson Perry RA](#))

Martin Parr is one of the best-known documentary photographers of his generation. With over 90 books of his own published, and another 30 edited by Parr, his photographic legacy is already established. Parr also acts as a curator and editor. He has curated two photography festivals, Arles in 2004 and Brighton Biennial in 2010. More recently Parr curated *Strange and Familiar* in 2016 at the Barbican Art Gallery. Parr has been a member of Magnum agency since 1994 and is currently the President. In 2013 Parr was appointed the visiting professor of photography at the University of Ulster. Parr's work has been collected by many of the major

museums, from the Tate, London, Centre Pompidou, Paris, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Cornelia Parker RA (nominated by [Conrad Shawcross RA](#))

Cornelia Parker was born in 1956 in Cheshire. She studied at the Gloucestershire College of Art and Design and at Wolverhampton Polytechnic before receiving her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Reading in 1982. In 1997 Parker was shortlisted for the Turner Prize. She has had numerous solo exhibitions in London, including at Frith Street Gallery and the Serpentine Gallery, as well as internationally, from New York, Boston, Turin, Stuttgart, San Francisco, Fort Worth to Melbourne and Lima. In 2015 her major solo survey show launched the reopening of The Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester. Also last year her 14 metre-long embroidery of the Wikipedia entry of the Magna Carta was unveiled at the British Library stitched by over 200 individuals, including Jarvis Cocker, Edward Snowden and Baroness Doreen Lawrence. Her work is held in many collections, including Tate Gallery, New York's MoMA and Metropolitan Museum, the Yale Center for British Art, the De Young Museum in San Francisco, Centre Pompidou, Paris, The Henry Moore Foundation and the British Council. Recently her work has been included in the 4th Guangzhou Triennial, China (2012), 3rd Aichi Triennale, Japan, (2013), 55th Biennale de Venezia, 8th Shenzhen Sculpture Biennial 2014, China and the 10th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2014). In 2015 Parker created *One More Time*, a Terrace Wires commission for St. Pancras International Station, London, co-presented by the Royal Academy of Arts and in 2016 presented *Transitional Object (PsychoBarn)* at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, for their annual Roof Garden Commission. In 2010 Parker was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts and became an OBE. She has been awarded honorary doctorates from Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Gloucestershire and Manchester Universities. She is Honorary Professor at Manchester University and Honorary Fellow at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oxford University.

About The Bronze Oak Project

Imagine the extraordinary impact of seeing a life-size 900 year old oak from Windsor Great Park reproduced perfectly in bronze in a key public space in London. The Bronze Oak Project's ambition is to do exactly that. Remarkable new techniques pioneered by Adam Lowe at Factum Arte now make this possible. One of these extraordinary Norman oak trees has already been scanned and using the latest 3D printing technology, we want to create an exact bronze copy of this amazing tree to within a millimetre. Our aim is twofold – the tree will be a breath-taking object in itself but will also stand as a symbol of the longevity of the monarchy, the shifting nature of national identity and the enduring power of trees to inspire us and make us see the world afresh. Secondly, we want to use the creation and installation of the tree to raise money to plant real trees in cities and make green corridors between cities and the countryside around them. Our hope is that the tree will be seen as an iconic symbol and lasting reminder of the connection between city-dwellers and the natural world. We have been working in partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts and Factum Foundation (the charitable arm of Factum Arte) and as part of this we commissioned Factum Arte to make a maquette of the bronze tree. This is being presented to Her Majesty the Queen from the Royal Academy to mark her 90th

birthday. The maquette will give an idea of just how extraordinary such an object could be when realised at its true scale in an urban context. www.bronzeoak.org

About Factum Foundation

Factum Foundation was founded in 2009. It grew out of the experimental work of Factum Arte's workshops in Madrid. Factum Arte is committed to developing new technologies and building bridges between digital mediation and traditional craft skills in the creation of contemporary works of art for many artists from around the world. Factum Foundation is devoted to applying these technologies to the preservation of cultural heritage and to the dissemination of the important role technology to deepen our understanding of the importance of the artefacts of the past. www.factumfoundation.org

About Royal Academicians

The Royal Academy of Arts is led by the Royal Academicians (RAs) who are eminent practising artists and architects. Their role is to govern the Royal Academy, they are responsible for its direction and they support the RA's activities and plans for the future. Each Academician is elected by their peers in one of four categories: Painters, Engravers, Printmakers and Draughtsmen, Sculptors and Architects. At any one time there are no more than 80 RAs. They are all practicing professional artists who work in the UK. Of these 80, there must always be at least 14 Sculptors, 12 Architects and 8 Printmakers; the rest are all Painters. When an Academician reaches the age of 75, they become a Senior Academician. Current Academicians include Phyllida Barlow, David Chipperfield, Michael Craig-Martin, Tacita Dean, Tracey Emin, Antony Gormley, David Hockney, Anish Kapoor, Cornelia Parker, Richard Rogers, Jenny Saville and Alan Stanton. In addition there are Honorary RAs, artists from outside the UK who are elected by Royal Academicians. The RA's Honorary membership includes a breadth of international artists, including Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, El Anatsui, Leoh Ming Pei and Marlene Dumas.

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 250th 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

For public information or to book events, please print 020 7300 8090 or visit www.royalacademy.org.uk/architecture Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J OBD

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