



CATHIE PILKINGTON RA ELECTED NEW KEEPER OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY

The Royal Academy of Arts announced today that Cathie Pilkington RA has been elected as the new Keeper of the Royal Academy. Pilkington was elected as a Royal Academician in 2014 and served as Professor of Sculpture from 2015-19.

The Keeper is responsible for guiding the Royal Academy Schools, the longest established postgraduate art school in the UK and the only free three-year programme in Europe. Alongside the President, Secretary and Treasurer, the Keeper is one of the four Officers of the Royal Academy and is elected from amongst the membership. Due to current circumstances, Pilkington was elected by her fellow Royal Academicians via a remote ballot. She succeeds Rebecca Salter PRA, who recently became President of the Royal Academy.

Cathie Pilkington RA, Keeper of the Royal Academy, said: "As a passionate practitioner and an established Professor in the RA Schools I have witnessed first-hand the transformative effect that studying at the Royal Academy has on a student's life and work. As the new Keeper with unprecedented challenges ahead, I am deeply committed to promoting and protecting this wonderful and unique environment. I look forward to working closely with the President, staff and students to ensure the RA Schools remains energised, innovative and resilient for future generations of practicing artists."

Rebecca Salter, President of the Royal Academy of Arts, said: "As an artist and teacher, Cathie Pilkington will bring a wealth of experience to the role of Keeper and joins the RA Schools at a particularly challenging time, with our students working from home and the future uncertain due to the coronavirus pandemic. Her guidance and leadership for the students will be invaluable. I look forward to collaborating with her as we work towards reopening and as the RA Schools approaches its vital restoration and renewal project in 2022 which will preserve the heritage of the institution whilst also ensuring it continues to provide an exceptional contemporary postgraduate art education."

Cathie Pilkington RA

Cathie Pilkington is an artist whose work engages critically with the canonical history of figurative sculpture. Crossing the borders of traditional, modern and contemporary idioms, her work combines intensively modelled and painted sculptures within immersive installations comprising a diverse array of props, materials and studio furniture. Her site-responsive installations are balanced ambivalently between chaos and precision and have been described as a kind of art historical fly-tipping. She studied at Edinburgh College of Art (1986-91) and The Royal College of Art (1995-97) She was elected Royal Academician in 2014. In 2015 she became Professor of Sculpture at the Royal Academy Schools. Recent projects include: *The Value of the Paw*, V&A Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green 2012; *Life Room: Anatomy of a Doll*, RA Schools Life Room 2017; *Doll for Petra*, Ditchling Museum of Art and Craft 2017; Her *Working from Home* intervention occupied Dorich House

Museum in 2018 and Pallant House Gallery in 2019; *The Covering* recently showed in Room 2 at Karsten Schubert 2020.

Notes to Editors

Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Royal Academy of Arts, including the RA Schools, is temporarily closed. The Royal Academy's reopening date will be dependent upon government advice.

About the Keeper

The Keeper of the Royal Academy is the Royal Academician with responsibility for the RA Schools. Elected from among the RAs, the Keeper makes sure the RA Schools continues to deliver the highest standards of teaching and academic performance. Every Keeper has their own studio space at the RA so they can continue creating their own work. The Keeper is elected for a term of three years, from amongst all Academicians, and approved of by the sovereign. The Keeper is eligible for re-election and cannot serve for more than nine years, three consecutive terms. Previous Keepers have included Rebecca Salter PRA (2017-19), Eileen Cooper RA (2011-17), Sir Henry Rushbury RA (1949-1964), Charles Landseer RA (1851-1873) and Henry Fuseli RA (1804-1825).

About the RA Schools

In 1768 the Royal Academy of Arts was founded to promote 'the Arts of Design'. A key principle was the creation of the Royal Academy Schools in early 1769, a school of art established to set the standard for the training and professionalism of the next generation of artists. The RA Schools remains free and independent to this day so that places are still given to artists based on merit. The RA Schools is led by the Keeper of the Royal Academy and Eliza Bonham Carter, Curator. A restoration and renewal project for the RA Schools will begin in 2022. Designed by Sir David Chipperfield CBE RA, who recently completed the Royal Academy's transformative redevelopment, the project will preserve the heritage of the RA Schools and ensure it continues to provide an exceptional contemporary postgraduate art education.

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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 or www.royalacademy.org.uk

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