



LEADING ARTISTS DONATE WORK TO THE 2016 RA SCHOOLS AUCTION TO SUPPORT BRITAIN'S LONGEST ESTABLISHED ART SCHOOL

The 10th anniversary auction will be presided over by Lord Poltimore, Deputy Chairman of Sotheby's Europe, with guest speaker psychotherapist Philippa Perry

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The 10th annual Royal Academy Schools Dinner and Auction 2016 will be held on Tuesday 15 March 2016 at the Royal Academy of Arts, London. All auction proceeds support the RA Schools, the UK's longest established art school. This year the guest speaker is Philippa Perry, well-known psychotherapist and wife of Grayson Perry RA.

For the 10th anniversary of the event, work has been donated by Royal Academicians including Ron Arad, Eileen Cooper, Michael Craig-Martin, Tracey Emin, Chantal Joffe, Cornelia Parker and Grayson Perry. Royal Academicians, Mali Morris and Bob & Roberta Smith, as well as other artists and designers, such as the RA Schools Trustee Paul Smith, are contributing by hand decorating special wooden plates. Graduates of the RA Schools comprising Matthew Darbyshire, Mary Ramsden, Prem Sahib and Eddie Peake have also produced work for the auction. Further special lots feature a tour of Humphrey Ocean RA's studio and a VIP evening at a private Laura Mvula concert.

The RA Schools programme is tailor-made to the individual student, affording each artist the space and flexibility to develop work across the breadth of contemporary art media. Contributors to the programme are leading figures in the art world, including Royal Academicians Michael Landy (Professor of Drawing), Chantal Joffe (Professor of Painting), Piers Gough (Professor of Architecture), Cathie Pilkington (Professor of Sculpture) and Humphrey Ocean (Professor of Perspective).

Eileen Cooper RA, Keeper of the Royal Academy of Arts, said: "I am extremely proud that the Royal Academy Schools remains both independent and free to all who study here; fundraising events such as the Schools Annual Dinner and Auction are vital to this purpose. This is the 10th year of this event and I am extremely grateful for the generosity of all the artists who have donated work, an illustrious list which reflects the overwhelming support for the RA Schools within the art world."

The auction will be available for viewing and for bidding online at www.ra-auction.com from 25 February, ahead of the live auction taking place on Tuesday 15 March. Sotheby's will hold a public preview of the works to be auctioned between 25-29 February. The annual fundraiser will be led by

Trustee and Chair of the RA Patrons, Rob Suss and Lord Poltimore, Deputy Chairman of Sotheby's Europe, will conduct the auction.

Dates

- 25 February Online preview and bidding opens: www.ra-auction.com
- 25-29 February Public auction preview: Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London, W1A 2AA
- 26 February Preview Reception: 8.30am-10am, Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London, W1A 2AA. Press RSVP essential.
- 15 March Royal Academy Schools Annual Dinner and Auction: Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BD

Royal Academy Schools Dinner and Auction Committee

Rob Suss is chairing the 2016 Royal Academy Schools Dinner and Auction Committee, whose other members are Prem Sahib, Charlie Billingham, Jeff Boardman, Joanna Boatfield, Eliza Bonham Carter, May Calil, Brian Clivaz, Eileen Cooper RA, Lavinia Grimshaw, Mark Hampson, Andrew Hanges, Charles Irving, Alex Legge, Jack MacDonald, Tim Marlow, Keir McGuinness, Helena Morrissey, Eddie Peake, Lord Poltimore, Mary Ramsden, Ed Shipton, Dee Stirling, Ralph Taylor, Mark Watts, Sian Westerman, Tyrone Wood and Burcu Yuksel.

About Philippa Perry

Philippa Perry has a degree in Fine Art from Middlesex Polytechnic. After training and volunteering with the Samaritans, she trained as a psychotherapist and following several years work in the mental health field, and a decade in private practice, joined the School of Life in 2010 and the advisory board of Talk for Health in 2013. In 2010, she wrote the graphic novel, *Couch Fiction* published by Palgrave Macmillan. She has also written as a freelance journalist for the Guardian, The Observer, Time Out, Psychologies and Red Magazine. In 2012 she wrote *How to Stay Sane* for The School of Life published by Pan Macmillan. She is currently writing a parenting book for Penguin. Philippa has worked as an occasional presenter for the Culture Show and Artsnight BBC2, and is married to the artist, Grayson Perry RA. In 2015 Philippa had two one-off documentaries, *Being Bipolar* (Channel 4) and *Sex, Lies and Love Bites: The Agony Aunt Story* (BBC4), and a weekly series on the Guardian website, *Philippa Perry's: what's troubling you?* In 2016 her new documentary* is due to be broadcast on Channel 4. *Working title: *The Great British Sex Survey*.

Tickets

Individual tickets to the Royal Academy Schools Annual Dinner and Auction 2016 are £350. VIP tickets and packages are also available, prices from £450. Tickets are available via the RA Events Office on 020 7300 5792 or fundraising.events@royalacademy.org.uk.

2016 RA Schools Public Programme

Julia Wachtel in conversation with Oliver Osborne

Thursday 21 April

Reynolds Room, Burlington House

6.30pm; £8; concessions £4

Following Julia Wachtel's acclaimed show at Vilma Gold the artist returns to London for a rare appearance with painter and RA Schools graduate Oliver Osborne. Through an in-depth study of her work she will discuss the developing character of her painting from the 1980s to now.

Supported by the David Lean Foundation

RA Schools Annual Lecture: Olafur Eliasson in conversation with Tim Marlow

Wednesday 4 May

The Royal Institution, Albemarle Street

6.30pm, £16; concessions £8

Renowned Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson is joined by the RA's Artistic Director Tim Marlow to discuss his extraordinary architectural projects and works in public spaces over the past 20 years.

Supported by the David Lean Foundation

RA Schools Show

RA Schools Studios

23 June – 3 July 2016

Early Access: Wednesday 22 June

Free admission

The *RA Schools Show* is the annual exhibition of works by final year students graduating from the Royal Academy Schools. The exhibition is held in the contemporary working studios of the RA Schools, situated at the heart of the Royal Academy, and provides visitors with a rare opportunity to view exceptional pieces from a new generation of artists.

Notes to Editors

Artwork sold at the auction directly supports the development of the students in the RA Schools.

The RA Schools, headed by the Keeper, Eileen Cooper RA, have been an integral part of the Royal Academy of Arts since its foundation in 1768 and it is the longest established art school in the UK. The School offers the only free three-year postgraduate programme in Europe. Current Professors include Michael Landy 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 Newton Investment Management

Newton is a London-based global investment management subsidiary of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation. With assets under management of £47.0 billion (as at 31 December 2015), including assets managed by Newton Investment Management Limited as dual officers of Newton Capital Management Limited and The Bank of New York Mellon, Newton's group of affiliated companies provides investment products and services to a wide range of clients, including pension funds, charities, corporations and (via BNY Mellon) individuals. News and other information about Newton is available at www.newton.co.uk and via Twitter: @NewtonIM

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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 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 further press information please contact Annabel Potter on tel: 020 7300 5615 or email: annabel.potter@royalacademy.org.uk

For public information, please print 020 7300 8090 or Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington Gardens, London W1S 3ES www.royalacademy.org.uk