

## ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS TO CELEBRATE 250<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY ON MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2018

### Major gift announced from Julia and Hans Rausing for The Vaults in the new RA

The Royal Academy of Arts, the world's foremost artist and architect-led institution, will have its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday 10 December 2018, exactly 250 years after the 'Instrument of Foundation' was signed by King George III in 1768.

The RA has received a major gift of £2.5m from Julia and Hans Rausing towards The Vaults, the new public route linking Burlington House to Burlington Gardens. This generous donation is the closing gift for the RA's recent redevelopment. The Vaults will be named *The Julia and Hans Rausing Hall*.

The Royal Academy has been celebrating its momentous anniversary throughout the year with highlights including:

- The newly expanded campus designed by Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by £12.7m from the National Lottery, has received over 1 million visits since opening on 19 May 2018
- The new free displays across the site have, since 19 May, attracted over 750,000 visits
- The opening 'Art Party' weekend (19/20 May 2018) received over 17,000 visits
- The new RA Collection Gallery has received, since 19 May, 100,000 visits
- 27% of visits in 2017/18 have been made by first time visitors to the RA
- 34% of visits in 2017/18 were made by those under 40 years old
- The 250<sup>th</sup> *Summer Exhibition* (12 June – 19 August 2018), co-ordinated by Grayson Perry RA, received 296,442 visits, the highest in over 100 years
- The acclaimed *Charles I: King and Collector* (27 January – 15 April 2018, in partnership with the Royal Collection Trust and sponsored by BNY Mellon) received 256,789 visits
- RA250 UK, a nationwide celebration of RA-related exhibitions and events with museums and galleries across the UK, with support from Art Fund
- 2018 ends with *Oceania* (29 September – 10 December 2018), the first ever major survey of Oceanic art to be held in the UK marking 250 years after Captain James Cook set sail on his first expedition

Christopher Le Brun, President of the Royal Academy of Arts, said: "The contribution of the Royal Academy of Arts to British cultural life is immeasurable and 250 years on it is still thriving; a voice for artists and architects, training the next generation of art students in the RA Schools and educating the public with world-class exhibitions and debate. We are experiencing this year a sense of renewal and we look forward to the next 250 years."

The anniversary year will culminate with the 'RA Student Night: The Birthday Party' on Saturday 8 December. Curated by University of the Arts London students, the one-night festival is inspired by the RA; its history and future. Up to 3,000 students are expected to attend.

Christopher Le Brun PRA will host a dinner for Royal Academicians on Monday 10 December at the Royal Academy.

### **History of the Royal Academy of Arts**

The Royal Academy of Arts, Britain's foremost artist and architect-led institution, was formed in 1768 by a group of artists and architects, including its first President, Sir Joshua Reynolds. The group was driven to create an independent, privately funded organisation which would promote 'the Arts of Design'. Its foundation, endorsed by King George III, provided professional recognition for eminent artists and architects (who were thereafter known as 'Royal Academicians'), established Britain's first art school, and the staging of an annual exhibition that would be open to all. The Royal Academy today still provides a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Though best known as a venue for world-class temporary exhibitions to promote the public's understanding and appreciation of visual culture, it continues to operate along the broader principles upon which it was founded. It is an independent charity and privately funded. It provides free education to the next generation of artists in the art school at the heart of its campus, the Royal Academy Schools, and it is still run by a distinguished group of 80 practicing artists and architects.

### **The Instrument of Foundation**

The 'Instrument of Foundation' is the original scheme for the establishment of the Royal Academy of Arts. In November 1768, architect Sir William Chambers RA (1723-1796) informed King George III that he and a group of distinguished artists and architects were keen to establish a society under his patronage that should "more effectually promote the arts of design than any yet established". The King replied that he was ready to extend his patronage to "whatever tended effectually to promote the liberal arts". This led to the presentation on 28 November of a memorial signed by twenty-two painters, sculptors and architects, which set out in brief the aims of the proposed body: "a well-regulated School or Academy of Design, for the use of students in the Arts, and an Annual Exhibition, open to all artists of distinguished merit". The memorial expressed the belief that profits arising from the exhibition would be sufficient to cover costs of the School. The King commanded that the scheme be further developed and on Saturday 10 December 1768 the final document, subsequently known as the Instrument of Foundation, received the royal signature together with the words "I approve of this plan; let it be put in execution."

### **Transforming the Royal Academy of Arts**

Following a transformational redevelopment, designed by internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield CBE RA and supported by the National Lottery through a £12.7m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the new Royal Academy has opened up and now reveals more of the elements that make the RA unique – sharing with the public historic treasures from its Collection, the work of its Royal Academicians and the Royal Academy Schools, and its role as a centre for debate about art and architecture – alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. In its 250<sup>th</sup> year,

the new Royal Academy of Arts has become a major cultural destination in central London, with year-round access to a significantly expanded public programme and with more space to make, debate and exhibit art and architecture than ever before. For further information about the new RA, please visit: [www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250)

The redevelopment has been funded with a £12.7 million grant from the National Lottery. Major support has also been received from a number of private individuals, including Mrs Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler, Ronald and Rita McAulay, The McLennan Family, The Mead Family Foundation, Mr and Mrs Robert Miller and Sir Simon and Lady Robertson, as well as trusts and foundations including the Blavatnik Family Foundation, The Cadogan Charity, Clore Duffield Foundation, The Dorfman Foundation, Dunard Fund, The Foyle Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation, The Monument Trust, The Rothschild Foundation and The Wolfson Foundation.



### **About the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)**

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk). Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLottery.



**BNY MELLON**

RA250 Anniversary Partner

### **BNY Mellon**

BNY Mellon has an 11-year partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts and is privileged to have supported many remarkable exhibitions including this year's *Charles I: King and Collector* and previously *Rubens and His Legacy* (2015); *Manet: Portraying Life* (2013); *Degas and the Ballet* (2011) and *The Real Van Gogh: The Artist and His Letters* (2010). Public access and education are key principles of BNY Mellon's international programme of arts sponsorship and the Royal Academy of Arts remains committed to engaging the broadest audience through its exhibitions, events and educational activities.

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### **The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust**

The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust is a charitable fund that supports organisations and charities across the globe. Since its formation, the Trust has provided over 220 grants totalling more than £185 million. The Trust supports a number of initiatives with the primary donations areas being the Arts, Children, Culture, Health, Mental Health and Science.

<http://www.juliahansrausingtrust.org/about-the-trust/>

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