



Summer Exhibition 2021

Main Galleries

22 September 2021 – 2 January 2022

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The Royal Academy is delighted to present this year's Summer Exhibition, which has been delayed until the autumn for the second time in its long history due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The 253rd Summer Exhibition is a unique celebration of contemporary art and architecture, providing a vital platform and support for the artistic community.

Yinka Shonibare RA is the co-ordinator of the Summer Exhibition 2021 and, working with the rest of the Summer Exhibition Committee, explores the theme of 'Reclaiming Magic' to celebrate the joy of creating art. Shonibare said "This exhibition seeks a return to the visceral aspects and the sheer joy of art making. It will celebrate the transformative powers of the magical in art and transcend the Western canon which formed the foundations of the Royal Academy, seeking to restore value to marginalised practices as equally valid forms of enlightenment."

Invited artists this year include Michael Armitage, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, Ellen Gallagher, Rita Keegan, Jade Montserrat, Magdalene Odundo, Faith Ringgold and Betye Saar. There is new work for the exhibition by Alvaro Barrington, Angela de la Cruz, Hew Locke, Cassi Namoda, and Lawrence Lemañana, who has created a large-scale textile kanga. The exhibition is anchored to a special dedication to the self-taught American artist Bill Traylor (1853 – 1949) who was born into slavery and only began to draw his recollections and observations in 1939. Further self-taught artists include Souleymane Fall, Nnena Kalu, Frantz Lamothe, Bärbel Lange, Marie-Rose Lortet, Frank Walter and Johnson Weree.

This year, the Summer Exhibition expands beyond the spatial and visual with a sound programme. The programme, which is intended to be played through personal headphones to enhance the experience of the exhibition, includes soundscapes and poetry by six artists. It is available for visitors to download in advance of their visit via a QR code on the RA website as well as at the entrance to the exhibition.

Having been unable to take part in last year's exhibition due to the pandemic, David Adjaye RA is now curating this year's Architecture Room which considers architecture through the expression of 'Climate and Geography (or vice versa)' focusing on the context of site, geography, climate, political climate, people, community and culture. Royal Academician architects featured include Farshid Moussavi, Richard Rogers and Caruso St John, and invited architects include Sean Canty, Counterspace and

Atelier Masomi. As part of the sound programme, Peter Adjaye, a conceptual sound artist, has created a 'soundtrack' for the Architecture Room.

In addition to the large number of public submissions, Royal Academicians and Honorary Academicians are showing new works, including Phyllida Barlow, William Kentridge, Conrad Shawcross, Wolfgang Tillmans and Rose Wylie. John Akomfrah RA has a dedicated gallery showing his video work *Peripeteia*, 2012.

The Summer Exhibition is the world's largest open submission contemporary art show and has taken place every year without interruption since 1769. Works from all over the world are judged democratically on merit and the final selection is made during the eight-day hang in the galleries. This year the Royal Academy received over 15,000 entries, of which around 1400 works, in a range of media, are on display. This open, inclusive and democratic show supports the artistic community, art education and provides a display of creativity and joy for the public.

The majority of works in the Summer Exhibition are for sale, offering visitors an opportunity to purchase original work. Funds raised support the exhibiting artists, the postgraduate students studying in the RA Schools and the work of the Royal Academy.

Notes to Editors

Summer Exhibition 2021 online

Many of the works in the Summer Exhibition 2021 are available to browse and buy online through the *Summer Exhibition Explorer* which will be live from Wednesday 22 September 2021.

Summer Exhibition 2021 Committee

Yinka Shonibare RA is the co-ordinator of the Summer Exhibition 2021. Members of the committee are Royal Academicians David Adjaye, Tony Bevan, Vanessa Jackson, Mali Morris, Humphrey Ocean, Eva Rothschild, Bob and Roberta Smith, and Emma Stibbon. The committee is chaired by the President of the Royal Academy, Rebecca Salter. The members of the Summer Exhibition Committee serve in rotation, ensuring that every year the exhibition has a distinctive character, with each Royal Academician responsible for a particular gallery space.

Prizes 2021

Each year the Royal Academy of Arts presents a number of prizes for outstanding works within the Summer Exhibition. The prestigious £25,000 Charles Wollaston Award, one of the most significant art prizes in the country, will be presented to the 'most distinguished work' in the exhibition. Winners will be announced once the exhibition has opened.

Dates and Opening Hours

Open to public: Wednesday 22 September 2021 – Sunday 2 January 2022
 10am – 6pm Tuesday to Sunday (last admission 5.30pm)

Admission

From £20; concessions available; under 16s go free ([T&Cs apply](#)); Friends of the RA go free. Admission prices include the List of Works giving details on every exhibit in the show.

Tickets

Advance booking is essential for everyone, including Friends of the RA. All visitors must have a pre-booked timed ticket to enter the building. Tickets can be booked in advance online (royalacademy.org.uk) or over the phone (0207 300 8090).

Images

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Safety measures

The health and safety of visitors and staff is paramount. Safety measures for visitors can be found on the RA website: royalacademy.org.uk/visiting-and-safety-during-coronavirus.

Supporter's Statement

Abdallah Nauphal, Chief Executive Officer, Insight Investment said: "We are very proud to work in partnership with the Royal Academy as the lead sponsor of the 253rd consecutive Summer Exhibition. 2021 marks our 15th year as sponsor. It has been challenging for everyone during the pandemic, in terms of the suffering caused and the restrictions placed on our lives. We admire the RA for how they adapted last year and holding the exhibition again in 2021 is a welcome sign of a return to normality for all of us. As a renowned arts institution, the RA works tirelessly to engage the public in cultural conversation through the arts, and the Summer Exhibition serves as a prominent focal point reflecting this purpose. This year's theme, 'Reclaiming Magic', is wholly suited to the times we live in, which call for inspiration and innovation, encouraging new ways of thinking and fresh ideas. We look forward to being able to meet in person at the exhibition and we hope as many people as possible get the opportunity to experience the Summer Exhibition in 2021, and for many more years to come."

About Insight Investment

Insight Investment is a leading global investment manager, founded in 2002 and headquartered in London. Insight primarily manages money for pension schemes by providing liability-driven investment strategies and investing in fixed income and currency and multi-asset. Insight takes responsible investment seriously and believes that ESG issues are important drivers of investment value. A founding signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) in 2006, in 2020 Insight achieved A+ ratings across all the relevant categories in the PRI survey, reflecting our ongoing commitment to integrating responsible investment practices across all aspects of our business. More information about Insight Investment can be found at: www.insightinvestment.com

History of the Summer Exhibition

One of the founding principles of the Royal Academy of Arts was to "mount an annual exhibition open to all artists of distinguished merit" to finance the training of young artists in the Royal Academy Schools. The Summer Exhibition has been held every year without interruption since 1769 and continues to play a significant part in raising funds to finance the students of the RA Schools. The RA Schools is the longest established art school in the UK and offers the only free three-year postgraduate programme in Europe. As the world's largest open submission contemporary art show, the Summer Exhibition provides a unique platform for emerging and established artists to showcase their works to an international audience, comprising a range of media from painting and printmaking to photography, sculpture,

architecture and film. Royal Academicians are automatically entitled to submit up to six works to the Summer Exhibition and the rest of the exhibition features work by those invited by the committee and external entrants.

The Royal Academy of Arts celebrates 'Art in Mayfair'

The Summer Exhibition will once again spill out onto the streets of London's West End, as part of 'Art in Mayfair', a six week-long celebration of art and culture in Mayfair. Taking over Bond Street, the Royal Academician Gary Hume will decorate the street with an installation of flags displaying his artwork. Art in Mayfair sees the Royal Academy of Arts collaborate with Bond Street to unveil an array of art inspired windows, showcases and pop-ups across world-leading fashion and fine jewellery brands, transforming Bond Street into a series of rich and diverse art installations from 2 September – 17 October 2021, coinciding with the Royal Academy's 253rd Summer Exhibition. More information about 'Art in Mayfair' can be found at: www.bondstreet.co.uk/events/art-in-mayfair-2021

Social Media

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

Facebook /royalacademy

Instagram @royalacademyarts

Twitter @royalacademy

#RASummer

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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