

**THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND JOHN SISK & SON CELEBRATE MILESTONE
IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ACADEMY'S TRANSFORMATIVE REDEVELOPMENT**

The Royal Academy of Arts and John Sisk & Son today revealed the newly restored nineteenth century façade of Burlington Gardens in a special event to celebrate a significant milestone in the RA's transformative redevelopment.

Christopher Le Brun, President of the Royal Academy and Stephen Bowcott, Chief Executive Officer of John Sisk & Son, were joined by Royal Academician sculptors Cornelia Parker and Gilbert and George, along with Blondel Cluff, Chair of the London Committee for the National Lottery, to unveil the final four statues to be restored on the building's façade above the main entrance. These figures of arts and science sit amongst the 22 statues featured across the Victorian architectural masterpiece designed by Sir James Pennethorne; Sir Isaac Newton (Physicist and Mathematician), Jeremy Bentham (Philosopher), John Milton (Poet) and William Harvey (Physician), all of which were sculpted by the Associate Royal Academician Joseph Durham (1814 – 1877). Sisk later presented the RA with a tall glass plinth to mark this key moment in the project.

Sisk commenced building works in October 2015, which have encompassed installing the largest temporary roof structure in London to enable the careful conservation of the Burlington Gardens façade, along with the continuing redevelopment of the interior to create new exhibition spaces, a Clore Learning Centre and Lecture Theatre. Designed by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the National Lottery along with private individuals, trusts and foundations, the new Royal Academy is due to be completed in 2018.

Christopher Le Brun, President of the Royal Academy of Arts, said: "We are delighted to celebrate this important point in our ambitious redevelopment with John Sisk & Son. The building has been covered for almost two years in scaffolding and it has been a long journey from wrapping the hoarding with a monumental artwork by Royal Academician Yinka Shonibare, to revealing the magnificently restored facade. We encourage passers-by and our future visitors to look up at the craftsmanship and, once again, at one of the grandest buildings in London. Now in the final months of construction, we can start to look forward to unveiling the new RA in 2018 in time for our 250th anniversary."

Stephen Bowcott, Chief Executive Officer, John Sisk & Son, said: "Sisk is honoured to have been awarded this prestigious contract by the Royal Academy of Arts at Burlington Gardens.

It is - without doubt - one of the most historically important buildings in central London with a unique story, and we are absolutely delighted to be the contractor associated with its 250 year restoration. The opportunity to work with David Chipperfield RA and the design team for this esteemed project is very exciting, combining our 160 year history and expertise in working with heritage buildings whilst giving us the opportunity to be innovative in tackling the unique challenges of the project. Sisk is proud to be creating a unique exhibition space that the general public across the world can enjoy for the next 250 years.”

The Royal Academy of Arts has launched a public appeal ‘Make Your Mark’ to raise £3 million to help complete its transformative redevelopment, realise the ambitious plans for its 250th anniversary in 2018 and to ensure the next 250 years of the Academy as Britain’s foremost independent, artist and architect-led institution. One element of the campaign is ‘Naming a Statue’ where the public are invited to adopt one of the 22 statues on the façade of 6 Burlington Gardens. For further information visit: makeyourmark.royalacademy.org.uk.

Notes to Editors

John Sisk & Son

John Sisk & Son is an innovative, international, engineering and construction company. We are a progressive business with long term vision, operating since 1859. Sisk is Ireland’s No1 provider of construction services with extensive operations across Ireland, the United Kingdom and mainland Europe. Sisk has the track record, scale and capacity to successfully undertake large, complex, multidisciplinary programmes and we are recognised by our global customers as world leaders in safe and effective delivery. Based on a strong financial platform, Sisk’s strategy is to create value for our customers, partners and people through our technical knowledge, ability and experience to:

- Collaborate with our customers and supply chain to provide technical and delivery solutions in an open and can-do way to meet aligned objectives
- Offer a full range of solutions where safety, innovation, quality, efficiency and value are integral to everything we do.
- Deliver projects and programmes in key sectors such as Data and Technology, Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences, Infrastructure, Transportation, Healthcare, Commercial, Residential, Retail, Industrial, Leisure, Education, Water and Energy.

Social Media

Join the discussion online at:

Facebook /royalacademy

Instagram @royalacademyarts

Twitter @royalacademy

#RA250

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 and architecture 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 National Lottery, the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting 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, please print: 020 7300 8090 or www.royalacademy.org.uk
Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD**

**For further press information, please contact Susie Gault, Head of Communications,
on 020 7300 5615 or susie.gault@royalacademy.org.uk**

14.09.17