

FREE DISPLAYS AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, JANUARY – JUNE 2019

The Royal Academy of Arts has recently undergone a transformative redevelopment, providing 70% more public space across its two-acre campus. This has enabled the Royal Academy to expand its temporary, free displays offer, exploring the RA's collection, the work of its Royal Academicians, and the activity of the RA Schools, which celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2019.

New Free Displays

[The Making of an Artist: Learning to Draw](#)

The Vaults

From 5 January 2019

The Vaults exhibit *The Making of an Artist: Learning to Draw* presents a formidable selection of plaster casts from the early years of the RA School, displayed together with works on paper from the RA's Collection, illustrating the ways in which drawing was taught at the Academy for over 200 years from 1769. The more recent history of the RA Schools is the focus of a new display entitled ***The RA Schools since 1945***, which includes life drawings made by current Academicians Paul Huxley and Bryan Kneale during their time as RA Schools students; Leonard Rosoman's drawing of the RA Schools corridor haunted by the ghost of former Keeper W.W. Russell; a sketchbook of work made in Madrid by former RA Schools student Lesley Hicks after receiving the Richard Ford Award; and Vanessa Jackson's sketches of work shown by prospective RA Schools students at interview.

["He has been here and fired a gun": Turner, Constable and the Royal Academy](#)

A special display in the Collection Gallery

12 January – 31 March 2019

The Royal Academy will reunite works by two of the RA Schools' most illustrious graduates, J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) and John Constable (1776-1837), in a re-telling of one of the most legendary events in the history of the Summer Exhibition.

On the eve of the Summer Exhibition 1832, Academicians gathered for Varnishing Day, an opportunity to make last minute revisions to their artworks. When Turner saw his cool-toned seascape *Helvoetsluys* hung next to Constable's scarlet-flecked Thames scene *The Opening of Waterloo*, Turner allegedly added a small dab of red paint to his canvas, which he then converted into an image of a buoy floating in the sea. His intention, seemingly, was to suggest by the nonchalant addition of this one pictorial detail that Constable's painting, traversed by swathes of scarlet paint, was unnaturally ruddy in character. This is a

judgement that later critics and even film-makers (such as Mike Leigh in *Mr Turner*, 2014), have tended to support. By reuniting both pictures in the newly inaugurated Collection Gallery, the RA invites visitors to make up their own minds regarding the relationship between the two rivals.

[The Anatomy Professor: Doctors, Death and Dining at the RA](#)

The Tennant Gallery

18 January – 17 March 2019

Celebrating 250 years of the Royal Academy Schools, *The Anatomy Professor: Doctors, Death and Dining at the RA* will shine a light on the RA's Professors of Anatomy. Tainted by rumours of body snatching and skulduggery, anatomy was a controversial subject, yet the Royal Academy promoted anatomical training for artists when it was founded in 1768, appointing the influential physician William Hunter (1718-1783) as its first Professor of Anatomy.

Hunter was followed by a succession of anatomists and physicians with very different approaches as well as wide-ranging specialisms and interests from embryology and psychiatry to hot-air ballooning and Japanese art. The Professors were often closely involved with the social life of the Academy, one of them – John Marshall (1818-1891) even ran the RA Dining Club. The display will feature portraits of selected Professors alongside exhibits relating to their lives and involvement with the Royal Academy. Also on show will be selected items from the Academy's important collection of anatomical art works, including a striking plaster cast of a flayed cadaver made by William Hunter.

[Invisible Landscapes: Imagination \(Act III\)](#)

Architecture Studio

2 February – 1 April 2019

Invisible Landscapes is an almost year-long programme of experimental interventions exploring the impact of emerging technologies on architecture and society. The final act, *Imagination (Act III)* will look at how virtual and augmented reality is pushing imaginative possibilities of architecture, blurring the boundaries between the physical and the virtual. This project presents different visions in which new technologies are being employed to reconfigure, in the near future, how we relate to the world around us and of architectural production.

[Mali Morris RA: On Paper](#)

The Tennant Gallery

28 March – 4 August 2019

Royal Academician Mali Morris will select thirty-two of her works on paper for this exhibition in the Tennant Gallery. They will be presented in three groups, from different periods of her career. The first will be *plein air* paintings in watercolour made in Cyprus and Canada, from the late 1980s. These were never intended as studies for her abstract paintings, but their

rhythmic drawing and luminosity is echoed in some of her larger paintings on canvas from that time. Eight vertical works opposite the entrance to the gallery will be from the series *Edge of a Portrait*, from the 1990s, in which Morris explored her fascination with the pictorial structures of profile portraits from the Italian Renaissance. Lastly, there will be a group of twenty works in acrylic from around 2000, when Morris embarked on a search for different ways of structuring colour – layering and excavating, rather than composing laterally. It was the beginning of the most radical and original phase of her work, which continues her preoccupation with the expressive possibilities of abstract painting, drawing on many sources but constantly exploring how colour can structure light and space.

Mali Morris RA Selects: Immediacy

The Cabinet, Collection Gallery

From 6 April 2019

The display in the Cabinet in the Collection Gallery will be selected by Mali Morris RA from the thousands of works in the vast and varied Collection of the Royal Academy of Arts. She will link it to the concurrent Tennant Gallery exhibition of her own work by the simple premise of ‘immediacy’, searching for examples of directness of handling and expression. The mingling of RA treasures – oil studies by Constable, pencil drawings by Turner and Gainsborough – with commonplace examples of studio life, such as doodles, shopping lists, painting tools and materials, will celebrate the unique character of the Collection.

Both displays by Mali Morris will be accompanied by a gallery guide written by the author and poet Martha Kapos. The first monograph to present the full range of Mali Morris’s work, entitled ‘Mali Morris Painting’ will be published by the Royal Academy in March 2019.

Architectural Futures

Architecture Studio

12 April - 19 May 2019

A display of the work of the four finalists for the Royal Academy Dorfman Award, which champions new talent in architecture from across the world, will be presented in the Architecture Studio in the lead up to, and during, the second edition of the Royal Academy Architecture Awards Week (13-19 May 2019). Through models, images, films, books and personal artefacts, the display will offer a window into their practice, local culture and work. The winner will be decided during awards week. The Royal Academy Architecture Awards are generously supported by the Dorfman Foundation.

Royal Academy Schools

Premiums Interim Projects 2019

Weston Studio and The Ronald and Rita McAulay Gallery

14 February – 13 March 2019

Premiums Interim Projects will feature the work of artists in their second year at the RA Schools. This annual exhibition provides an opportunity to view new work by emerging artists mid-way through their three-year postgraduate course, at a point when their work is still developing. The exhibition will include works across a wide range of media including painting, performance, photography, sculpture, site-specific installation and video.

RA Schools Show 2019

RA Schools Studios and Weston Studio

20 – 30 June 2019

The RA Schools Show is the annual exhibition of works by artists graduating from the UK's longest established contemporary art school, the RA Schools. The show will present work by emerging artists in a range of media with each exhibiting in solo spaces in the rarely-seen working studios within the Royal Academy. The show will coincide with the 250th anniversary of the RA Schools.

[Weston Studio](#)

Ongoing

Throughout the year, individuals and groups from the RA Schools at various stages of their training take over the Weston Studio, using it as a testing ground for innovative works and thought-provoking installations. The forthcoming exhibition ***Mary Maclean: What is Seen, What is Shown*** (29 November 2018 – 6 February 2019), showcases a body of work by former Senior Lecturer at the RA Schools Mary Maclean (1962 – 2018), featuring photographic works based on observations of the RA Schools and other university and art school settings, produced over a period of more than ten years.

Information on current and ongoing free displays at the Royal Academy can be found

[here](#)

Notes to Editors

Free admission

Burlington House

Open daily 10am – 6pm

Fridays 10am – 10pm

Burlington Gardens

Open daily 8am – 10pm

Sundays 10am – 6pm

Collection Gallery

Open daily 10am – 6pm

Fridays 10am – 10pm

Please note, the Collection Gallery will be closed from 11 December 2018 to 12 January 2019

Images

Publicity images can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.picselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

Social Media

Join the discussion online at:

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RA Collection and Free Displays

One of the key features of the redevelopment is the new Weston Bridge between Burlington House and Burlington Gardens, uniting the two-acre campus and creating a new route between Piccadilly and Mayfair. The unified campus provides 70% more public space than the RA's original Burlington House footprint, enabling the RA to expand its exhibition and events programme, and to create new and free displays of art and architecture across the campus for visitors year-round. From dedicated galleries and displays exploring its foundation and history in training artists, to changing exhibits and interventions devoted to showcasing contemporary works by Royal Academicians and students at the art school at the heart of the campus. The display of the Royal Academy Collection has been curated by Royal Academicians and designed by renowned museographer Adrien Gardère.

Further information on free displays is available here:

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibitions-and-events>

RA Collection online

Alongside the transformation of the RA's physical space, the first phase of a new online platform <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/art-artists/search/search-the-collection> has launched to open up the RA Collection to be more accessible to audiences worldwide. Comprising paintings, sculptures, artists' letters and books from the RA Collection, over 10,000 items have been newly digitised with the support of the National Lottery. The RA worked with Fabrique, the award-winning designers of the Rijksmuseum's website.

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by a group of artists and architects, under the patronage of King George III, in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded charity led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to promote the creation, understanding and appreciation of the arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

Following a transformative redevelopment, designed by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the National Lottery, the new Royal Academy of Arts 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 learning and debate about art and architecture – alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. royalacademy.org.uk

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