

RA250
1768-2018

Royal Academy of Arts
Charles I
King and Collector

Charles I: King and Collector
Main Galleries
27 January – 15 April 2018

RA250 Anniversary Partner



BNY MELLON

In January 2018, the Royal Academy of Arts, in partnership with Royal Collection Trust, will present *Charles I: King and Collector*, a landmark exhibition that will reunite one of the most extraordinary and influential art collections ever assembled. During his reign, Charles I (1600-1649) acquired and commissioned exceptional masterpieces from the fifteenth to the seventeenth century, including works by Van Dyck, Rubens, Holbein, Titian and Mantegna, amongst others. Charles I was executed in 1649 and just months later the collection was offered for sale and dispersed across Europe. Although many works were retrieved by Charles II during the Restoration, others now form the core of collections such as the Musée du Louvre and the Museo Nacional del Prado.

Charles I: King and Collector will reunite around 150 of the most important works for the first time since the seventeenth century, providing an unprecedented opportunity to experience the collection that changed the appreciation of art in England.

In 1623, two years prior to his ascension to the throne, Prince Charles visited Madrid. The Habsburg collection made a lasting impression on the future king and he returned to England with a number of works, including paintings by Titian and Veronese. Intent on creating his own collection, he acquired the esteemed Gonzaga collection, which had been accumulated by the Dukes of Mantua. He also commissioned important artists, most notably Anthony van Dyck, who was appointed 'principalle Paynter in Ordenarie to their Majesties' in 1632. In collaboration and competition with other collectors close to the Stuart court, namely Thomas Howard (1586-1646), Earl of Arundel, and George Villiers (1592-1628), Duke of Buckingham, Charles I amassed a collection unrivalled in the history of English taste.

By 1649, the collection of Charles I comprised around 1,500 paintings and 500 sculptures. An inventory compiled by Abraham van der Doort (c.1580-1640), first Surveyor of The King's Pictures, recorded the contents of the collection, providing a detailed account of the artistic tastes and high level of connoisseurship within the king's circle.

Charles I: King and Collector will include over 90 works generously lent by Her Majesty The Queen from the Royal Collection. Major lenders will also include The National Gallery, London, the Musée du

Louvre, Paris, the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, as well as numerous other public and private collections.

Anthony van Dyck's monumental portraits of the king and his family will form the core of the exhibition: his first major commission upon his arrival in England, *Charles I and Henrietta Maria with Prince Charles and Princess Mary ('The Greate Peece')*, 1632 (The Royal Collection), and his two magnificent equestrian portraits, *Charles I on Horseback with M. de St. Antoine*, 1633 (The Royal Collection), and *Charles I on Horseback*, 1637-38 (The National Gallery, London). They will be shown together with Van Dyck's most celebrated and moving portrait of the king, *Charles I ('Le Roi à la chasse')*, c.1635 (Musée du Louvre, Paris), which will return to England for the first time since the seventeenth century.

Charles I commissioned some of the most important artists of his day, and the exhibition will include Peter Paul Rubens's *Minerva Protects Pax from Mars ('Peace and War')*, 1629-30 (The National Gallery, London) and his *Landscape with Saint George and the Dragon*, 1630-5 (The Royal Collection) as well as Van Dyck's spectacular *Cupid and Psyche*, 1639-40 (The Royal Collection). Particular attention will be given to the patronage of Queen Henrietta Maria, including works by Orazio Gentileschi and Guido Reni.

In addition, the exhibition will present the most important Renaissance paintings from the collection, including Andrea Mantegna's monumental series, *The Triumph of Caesar*, c.1484-92 (The Royal Collection), which will command a dedicated gallery within the exhibition, as well as Titian's *Supper at Emmaus*, c.1530 (Musée du Louvre, Paris), and *Charles V with a Dog*, 1533 (Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid). Other Renaissance artists represented are Correggio, Agnolo Bronzino, Jacopo Bassano, Tintoretto and Paolo Veronese as well as Albrecht Dürer, Jan Gossaert, Hans Holbein the Younger and Pieter Bruegel the Elder.

Further highlights will be the celebrated Mortlake tapestries of Raphael's *Acts of the Apostles*, c.1631-40 (Mobilier National, Paris), arguably the most spectacular set of tapestries ever produced in England, as well as the precious works formerly kept in the Cabinet at Whitehall Palace, including paintings, statuettes, miniatures and drawings.

Christopher Le Brun, President, Royal Academy of Arts, said: '*Charles I is one of history's greatest collectors, the Royal Collection is one of the world's greatest collections and the Royal Academy's galleries are amongst the finest in the world. With such a combination this exhibition provides the perfect launch for our 250th anniversary celebrations in 2018*'.

Organisation

Charles I: King and Collector is organised by the Royal Academy of Arts in partnership with Royal Collection Trust. The exhibition is curated by Per Rumberg, Curator, Royal Academy of Arts, and Desmond Shawe-Taylor, Surveyor of The Queen's Pictures.

Catalogue

Charles I: King and Collector will be accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue edited by Per Rumberg and Desmond Shawe-Taylor; further authors include David Ekserdjian, Barbara Furlotti, Erin

Griffey, Gregory Martin, Guido Rebecchini, Vanessa Remington, Karen Serres, Lucy Whitaker and Jeremy Wood.

Sponsor's Statement

Michael Cole-Fontayn, EMEA Chairman, BNY Mellon said 'The history of art and the essence of creative expression weave through the fabric of BNY Mellon. By supporting art in society it is our belief that we are enabling communities to find their own moment of inspiration and investing in the minds of tomorrow. Public access and education remain central to our international programme of arts sponsorship and, as the Royal Academy's official 250th Anniversary Partner in 2018, we are delighted to support *Charles I: King and Collector* at the start of this special year of celebration for the Royal Academy.'

About BNY Mellon

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Dates and Opening Hours

Press View: Tuesday 23 January 2018, 10am – 1pm
Open to public: Saturday 27 January – Sunday 15 April 2018
10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)
Late night opening: Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

Admission

£20.00 full price (£18 without Gift Aid donation); concessions available; children under 16 and Friends of the RA go free.

Tickets

Tickets for *Charles I: King and Collector* are available daily at the RA or online at www.royalacademy.org.uk. Group bookings: Groups of 10+ are asked to book in advance. Telephone 020 7300 8027 or email adultgroups@royalacademy.org.uk.

Images

Publicity images for *Charles I: King and Collector* 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 folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

Social Media

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#CharlesI

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 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
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