

RA250
1768-2018

Royal Academy of Arts
TACITA DEAN
LANDSCAPE

Tacita Dean: *LANDSCAPE*
The Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries
19 May – 12 August 2018

Tacita Dean: *LANDSCAPE* inaugurates the new Gabrielle Jungels-Winkler Galleries at the Royal Academy of Arts, following a transformative redevelopment in its 250th year. The exhibition by internationally-renowned visual artist and Royal Academician Tacita Dean is part of an unprecedented collaboration with the National Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery in London. Tacita Dean's three exhibitions, *LANDSCAPE*, *PORTRAIT*, *STILL LIFE*, shaped by Dean's response to the individual character of each institution, explores genres traditionally associated with painting – landscape at the Royal Academy of Arts, portraiture at the National Portrait Gallery and still life at the National Gallery – seen through the contemporary prism of Dean's wide-ranging artistic practice.

Landscape was championed early on at the Royal Academy by the likes of Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable and J.M.W. Turner. Taking up this legacy with a view to the poetic and the sublime in art, Dean explores landscape in its broadest sense to bring in botany, cosmography, geology, natural phenomena and travel. Alongside earlier works including *Majesty* (2006) and her collection of four-or-more-leaf clovers (1972-present), Dean has made a series of new works for the exhibition that focus on various aspects of 'scape'. These include a new monumental blackboard drawing, *The Montafon Letter* (2017), slate cloud drawings and a photogravure of the ancient mountain Quarantania, where Christ is believed to have been tempted by the Devil in the wilderness.

The exhibition culminates in an ambitious new 35mm film diptych, *Antigone* (2018), made with the same masking technique developed for Dean's Tate Modern Turbine Hall project *FILM* (2011). In this experimental, quasi-narrative film, which features poet Anne Carson and actor Stephen Dillane, Dean combines vastly differing landscapes within a single cinematographic image including the moorland of Cornwall, the post-industrial Mississippi flood plains of the American Midwest and the geysers of Yellowstone National Park to create a different scape, one that can only reside within the filmic world of a notional cinema. *Antigone* lasts 56 minutes and will start promptly on the hour every hour.

Tacita Dean: *PORTRAIT* (15 March - 28 May 2018) at the National Portrait Gallery focuses on portraiture primarily through the medium of 16mm film, through Dean's films of influential figures such as Merce Cunningham, Julie Mehretu and David Hockney. Tacita Dean: *STILL LIFE* (15

March - 28 May 2018) at the National Gallery presents an innovative exploration of the genre through Dean's lens as one of its leading contemporary practitioners. The artist curates a diverse selection of works, ranging from 17th-century paintings to recently completed pieces in a variety of mediums, either by the artist herself or by her contemporaries.

Tacita Dean (b.1965) is a British European artist based in Berlin and Los Angeles who works with many mediums but primarily in film. She first came to prominence in the 1990s and is now considered to be one of the most influential artists working today. Her art is carried by a sense of history, time and place, light quality and the essence of the medium itself.

Tacita Dean said: "It is a great honour to be invited to make this set of exhibitions in three such venerable and individual institutions. The idea to identify the nature of genres within my own practice came from within the particular identities of these three museums and their histories. It has been a huge pleasure developing the structure of these exhibitions with everyone involved and daring to gently nudge pre-existing orthodoxies about what constitutes a landscape, portrait and still life."

Tim Marlow, Artistic Director, Royal Academy of Arts, said: "This is a landmark collaboration between three historic institutions and an internationally important artist. I can think of no better way of inaugurating our new galleries in Burlington Gardens."

Notes to Editors

About Tacita Dean

Tacita Dean grew up near Canterbury, England, the granddaughter of Basil Dean, the theatre and film director and producer who founded Ealing Studios. She graduated from Falmouth School of Art in 1988 and after a scholarship year at the Supreme School of Fine Art in Athens, Greece, studied for a higher diploma degree in Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art (1990-1992). Dean was nominated for the Turner Prize in 1998 for her 16-minute 16mm colour film *Disappearance at Sea*; a work inspired by the story of Donald Crowhurst (1932–1969), who died tragically whilst attempting to be the first to sail alone non-stop around the globe. She has received a number of awards including the BT New Contemporaries Award, 1992; 2000-2001 DAAD scholarship in Berlin; the sixth Benesse Prize at the 51st Venice Biennale, 2005, and the Hugo Boss Prize at the Guggenheim Museum in 2006, which included her film *Kodak*, 2006 and the Kurt Schwitters Prize, Hanover in 2009. In 2007, Dean was elected into the Akademie der Künste in Berlin and to the Royal Academy of Art in 2008. In 2011, she was commissioned to create a unique artwork for the Tate Modern's Unilever Series in the Turbine Hall; Dean described the final piece, entitled *FILM*, as 'a portrait of film itself'. Dean's recent solo exhibitions include a major exhibition in 2016 at the Museo Tamayo, Mexico City; Instituto Moreira Salles, Rio de Janeiro, 2013; Botin Foundation, Santander, Spain, 2013, Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, 2013 and New Museum, New York, 2012. Her works are held in public collections worldwide including the Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Modern Art, New York, Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris and Tate Modern, London. Dean is a founding member of saveform.org. Future solo exhibitions in 2018 include Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh and Kunsthaus Bregenz.

Organisation

Tacita Dean: *LANDSCAPE* at the Royal Academy of Arts is curated by Desiree de Chair, Curator, Royal Academy of Arts and Sarah Lea, Curator, Royal Academy of Arts.

Accompanying Publication

The exhibitions are accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with essays by Alexandra Harris, Alan Hollinghurst and Ali Smith. In addition, the Collected Writings and Complete Filmography of Tacita Dean are published in two volumes in a slipcase.

Publications supported by Joe and Marie Donnelly.

Tacita Dean: *LANDSCAPE*

Lead support from

Art Fund_

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Dates and Opening Hours

Open to public: Saturday 19 May – Sunday 12 August 2018
10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)

Late night opening: Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

***Antigone (2018)* lasts 56 minutes and will start promptly on the hour every hour**

Admission

Tickets £14 full price (£12 without Gift Aid donation); 50% off with National Art Pass / £6; concessions available; children under 16 and Friends of the RA go free. All tickets include a multimedia guide.

Tickets

Tickets are available daily at the RA or visit royalacademy.org.uk. Group bookings: Groups of 10+ are asked to book in advance. Telephone 020 7300 8027 or email groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk.

Images

Publicity images for Tacita Dean: *LANDSCAPE* 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.

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Tacita Dean: *PORTRAIT* at the National Portrait Gallery, London

15 March - 28 May 2018

National Portrait Gallery Spring Season 2018 sponsored by Herbert Smith Freehills LLP

Tickets with donation: Full price £14 /Concessions £12.50

Tickets without donation: Full price £12 /Concessions £10.50

Free for Members and Patrons

npg.org.uk/tacitadean

For further press information please contact:

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(not for publication)/Email lmckechnan@npg.org.uk

Tacita Dean: *STILL LIFE* at the National Gallery

15 March - 28 May 2018

Free Admission. Donations Welcome.

nationalgallery.org.uk

Exhibition supported by Christian Levett, and Miss Dasha Shenkman OBE.

Sponsored by Hiscox, Contemporary Art Partner of the National Gallery.

For further press information please contact:

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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.

For public information, please print 020 7300 8090 or www.royalacademy.org.uk

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