

RA

Royal Academy of Arts

Antony Gormley

BNP Paribas AccessArt25 programme to offer free entry for young people aged 17 - 25 to Antony Gormley at the Royal Academy of Arts



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As part of their support for the solo exhibition of internationally-acclaimed British sculptor Antony Gormley opening this September at the Royal Academy of Arts, BNP Paribas will offer 3,000 people, aged 17 - 25, free entry to the exhibition. The BNP Paribas initiative – *AccessArt25* – aims to offer young people what may be their first visit to the Royal Academy of Arts.

The programme will consist of three specially-curated evening events that will run from 6.30 to 9:30pm on **14 October, 18 November and 25 November 2019**. In addition to free entry to the exhibition, each evening will include young art educator tours; art-making workshops such as Zine-Making, and clay figure sculpting; digital art; arts career mentoring and talks; interactive social spaces with refreshments, sound art and DJs; and a social media photography competition.

The *AccessArt25* programme is the first of its kind in terms of a corporate supporter providing free access to exhibitions specifically for young people. The initiative was launched in 2018 as part of BNP Paribas' three-year support for the Turner Prize at Tate, where it proved to be highly successful.

Antony Gormley, Royal Academician, said: "I am delighted that BNP Paribas is partnering with the Royal Academy for my exhibition so that young people can visit for free as part of the *AccessArt25* programme. I'm grateful that this initiative will particularly target those who may not have ready access to art exhibitions. We are all of us artists, and I hope seeing my work will inspire young peoples' own reflections on themselves and the world around them."

Anne Marie Verstraeten, UK Country Head, BNP Paribas, said: "As we approach our 20th year of support for the Royal Academy of Arts, we believe it is more important than ever that great contemporary art should be accessible for all. That is why we launched the BNP Paribas *AccessArt25* programme. We look forward to welcoming thousands of young people through the doors of this incredible institution, free of charge, to experience an exhibition by one of Britain's foremost contemporary artists."

Young people aged 17 - 25 can register their interest at roy.ac/gormley-tickets.

BNP Paribas

BNP Paribas is a leading European bank, with global reach. The Group has a presence in 72 countries, employs more than 202,000 staff, of which over 9000 are based in the UK. BNP Paribas has supported art and culture around the world for over 30 years. In the UK, it supports the Turner Prize as well as the Royal Academy of Arts, V&A London, V&A Dundee, Tate Britain, Tate Modern, Tate Liverpool and Tate St Ives, and the Royal Opera House.

Web: www.bnpparibas.com; www.bnpparibas.co.uk

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