



Royal Academy of Arts
Press Release

**British Watercolours: From the Collection of BNY Mellon
Tennant Gallery**

25 September – 16 December 2018



BNY MELLON

RA250 Anniversary Partner

In September 2018, the Royal Academy will present *British Watercolours: From the Collection of BNY Mellon* in the Tennant Gallery. The exhibition will present twenty-five British watercolours and drawings, featuring works from BNY Mellon's corporate art collection which were created in the first hundred years of the Royal Academy's existence between 1770-1870. The exhibition marks the Royal Academy's 250th anniversary this year.

British Watercolours will focus on prominent Royal Academicians such as Thomas Gainsborough, JMW Turner, John Constable and Sir David Wilkie, whose works will return to London from the United States for the duration of the exhibition. Highlights will include an 1833 view of Hampstead Heath by John Constable RA; Italian landscape scenes painted in the 1770s by Thomas Jones and John Robert Cozens; an unfinished *Study of a Bedouin Arab*, 1840s, by John Frederick Lewis RA; and an expressive depiction of Venice by the critic and artist John Ruskin from 1876.

The British drawings and watercolours in the BNY Mellon collection were largely acquired in the 1980s, by the Mellon Financial Corporation, prior to its merger with The Bank of New York in 2007. Mellon's corporate art collection was established to artistically enhance the workplace and to be enjoyed by its employees and customers whilst bringing an important cultural and educational asset to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where Mellon Financial Corporation had its corporate headquarters. The collection initially consisted of a small group of British paintings but was carefully augmented in the early 1980s with British watercolours and American landscape paintings, with the intention of developing a group of works that would reveal the mutual transatlantic exchange of ideas that took place during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The British works in particular reflected the taste of Paul Mellon (1907-1999), grandson of Mellon's founder Judge Thomas Mellon (1813-1908) who was one of the most distinguished collectors of British art of his generation.

"BNY Mellon's longstanding commitment to the arts as part of our global philanthropic endeavours, and in particular our valued and enduring partnership with the Royal Academy of Arts, is a source of great pride to our company," said Hani Kablawi, Chairman of Europe,

Middle East & Africa, BNY Mellon. “We are very honoured to have the opportunity to share with the public some of the key works from our British watercolour and drawings collection, which celebrates the achievement of a distinguished group of British artists who are credited with advancing British watercolour. We hope you enjoy this fascinating and inspiring exhibition.”

Organisation

The exhibition is curated by Brian Allen, a former Director of Studies at the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art and a specialist in British art of this period.

Dates and Opening Hours

Open to the public	Tuesday 25 September – Sunday 16 December 2018 10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)
Late night opening:	Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

Free admission

Publication

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive publication *British Watercolours c. 1770–1870 from the Collection of BNY Mellon*, written by Brian Allen and published by Modern Art Press in association with the Royal Academy of Arts.

Publication date: September 2018

Extent: 112 pages, 46 illustrations in colour

Price: £14.95

ISBN: 978-0-9568007-6-3 (paperback)

About BNY Mellon

BNY Mellon is a global investments company dedicated to helping its clients manage and service their financial assets throughout the investment lifecycle. Whether providing financial services for institutions, corporations or individual investors, BNY Mellon delivers informed investment management and investment services in 35 countries. As of June 30, 2018, BNY Mellon had \$33.6 trillion in assets under custody and/or administration, and \$1.8 trillion in assets under management. BNY Mellon can act as a single point of contact for clients looking to create, trade, hold, manage, service, distribute or restructure investments. BNY Mellon is the corporate brand of The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation (NYSE: BK). Additional information is available on www.bnymellon.com. Follow us on Twitter @BNYMellon or visit our newsroom at www.bnymellon.com/newsroom for the latest company news.

Images

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www.picselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

Social Media

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About the Tennant Gallery

The Tennant Gallery is a dedicated space within the Royal Academy for the display of works on paper, for which light levels must be carefully controlled. A changing programme of focussed exhibitions runs throughout the year, exploring the work of Royal Academicians past and present, the history of the institution, and its collection.

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 visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The Royal Academy has launched a new campus as part of the celebrations of its 250th anniversary year. 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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