



The Royal Academy of Arts featured in official commemorative album for The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration at Windsor

While The Queen's actual birthday is on 21 April and her official birthday is on a Saturday in June, The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration will take place from 12 to 15 May 2016 in Home Park, Windsor Castle, and will celebrate The Queen's life, her dedication to the Commonwealth and international affairs, her involvement with the armed forces and her love of horses.

As part of these celebrations, publisher St James's House has produced an official commemorative album for the event – the only publication sanctioned and endorsed by the organisers.

“Our commemorative album will be presented as a gift to VVIP and VIP guests at each of the four evenings,” says Richard Freed, Chief Executive of St James's House. “Copies of the book will also be distributed to key figures and organisations around the world including heads of state, ambassadors and leaders of industry.”

In addition to celebrating the life and reign of The Queen, the publication showcases a selection of organisations in the UK and Commonwealth, or with strong ties to Britain. These organisations are drawn from educational, cultural, social, technological and business spheres, and include Royal Charter holders, Royal Warrant holders and recipients of the Queen's Awards. Collectively, they provide insights into the Commonwealth today and into the UK's role in the wider world.

In the area of the visual arts, one of the organisations selected to appear in the publication is the Royal Academy of Arts.

“The Royal Academy is Britain's foremost artist-led organisation and we were approached by publisher St James's House with an invitation to appear in the event's official commemorative album,” says Christopher Le Brun, President of the Royal Academy of Arts. “We were invited based on our good editorial fit: we have a historic relationship with the Royal Family as Patrons, and we are honoured to be part of this great celebration.”

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. Exhibitions such as *Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse*, *Ai Weiwei* and *David Hockney: A Bigger Picture* have contributed to its unrivalled reputation as a venue for exhibitions of international importance. At the organisation's heart are the RA Schools, Britain's longest established art school and the only free three-year postgraduate course in the UK.

Asked about the participation of the Royal Academy, Richard Freed of St James's House says: "As the official publisher for The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration, we have been entrusted with telling the Queen's story. We were also tasked with finding suitable editorial partners for the book, and we were delighted when the Academy agreed to help us mark this important milestone."

On each evening of The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration, 900 horses and more than 1,500 people from around the world will participate in a 90-minute show to celebrate The Queen's life. This show will take the audience from The Queen's birth, through the Second World War, her marriage, her coronation and a reign of more than 60 years, and will incorporate actors, bands and dancers to tell the story. The final performance will be broadcast live by ITV and will feature well-known hosts, narrators and singers from the British entertainment world. Confirmed participants include Britain's most popular television duo Ant and Dec, television presenter Alan Titchmarsh and singer Katherine Jenkins.

Over the four evenings, more than 25,000 VVIPs, VIPs, guests and spectators will attend the event, and the commemorative album as well as television coverage have been organised to enable The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration to reach an even wider audience. The official commemorative album will also provide a lasting souvenir.

St James's House has previously produced publications for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Prince Philip's 90th birthday and the 750th anniversary of Parliament in the UK, and its official commemorative album for The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration will be distributed through both targeted circulation and specially selected retail channels. Copies of book – and the official event programme – can already be pre-ordered online at www.hmq90books.com.

Notes to Editor:

The Royal Academy 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 and revitalising 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.

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20.04.2016