

## THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND THE PENINSULA HONG KONG ANNOUNCE INSTALLATION BY LEADING BRITISH ARTIST, MICHAEL CRAIG-MARTIN RA

The Royal Academy of Arts and The Peninsula Hong Kong will co-present a public art installation in Hong Kong by leading British artist and Royal Academician Michael Craig-Martin. The third instalment in a three-year partnership between The Peninsula and the Royal Academy, Craig-Martin's work is timed to coincide with the fifth edition of Art Basel Hong Kong, and will be unveiled on **Monday 20 March 2017**.

*Bright Idea*, 2016, is a site-specific installation which will emerge from the fountain in The Peninsula's forecourt, depicting a giant bright yellow lightbulb made out of powder-coated steel. Recalling the acclaimed works that Craig-Martin displayed in 2014 at Chatsworth, *Bright Idea* depicts an everyday, mundane object inherent with nuanced associations and, by changing its dimensions and setting, fundamentally challenges the way in which it is perceived.

The work is part of the 'Love Art at The Peninsula' initiative, the hotel's programme of exhibitions and events that celebrates its commitment to art. The third year of the partnership builds on the RA's recent collaborations with cultural and educational institutions across Asia. In 2015 Richard Wilson RA was the first artist with the installation *Hang on a Minute Lads... I've Got a Great Idea*, and last year Conrad Shawcross RA presented *The Ada Project*.

Other RA collaborations in Asia have included exhibitions in Singapore, Japan, Qatar and Australia, an artist exchange programme in partnership with young practicing artists from Hong Kong and the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, and a student exchange programme with Tokyo University of the Arts. In 2014 the RA led an art-handling training scheme in collaboration with Art Basel in Hong Kong. Prior to this, the RA initiated a professional development programme for Hong Kong arts professionals in partnership with the Hong Kong government, and it has been behind a number of high-profile artist's talks in the city over the past few years.

### **Notes to editors**

#### **About Michael Craig-Martin RA**

Michael Craig-Martin grew up and was educated in the United States. He studied Fine Art at the Yale University School of Art and Architecture and, on completion of his studies in 1966, he moved to London where he has lived ever since. His early work drew together a variety of objects and materials and questioned the nature of art and representation. *An Oak Tree*, 1973, is one of his best known early works. His more recent work, which includes painting, printmaking, installations projections and drawing, continues to depict common place objects. Craig-Martin had his first one man exhibition at the Rowan Gallery in London in 1969. Since then he has shown regularly both in the UK and abroad. Most notably there was a major retrospective of his work at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1989, and in 1991 he showed wall drawings at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Group exhibitions include the British conceptual exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in 1972, *The New Art*, and the 1996 exhibition *Un siècle de sculpture anglaise* at the Jeu de Paume in Paris. He was the British representative at the Sao Paulo Biennial in 1998. Craig-Martin is also widely recognised as an effective and influential teacher. His teaching career started in 1966, but it is his period at Goldsmiths, London, for which he is best known. His former students include many of those artists who made such a significant impact on the art scene in the 1990s; these include Damien Hirst, Gary Hume and Sarah Lucas. He has curated exhibitions, including *Drawing the Line*, which toured venues including the Whitechapel Art Gallery in 1995. He has also published many articles and essays and was a Trustee of the Tate Gallery. Craig-Martin was awarded a CBE in 2000, elected as a Royal Academician in 2006 and was knighted for his services to art in 2016.

### **Event: Michael Craig-Martin RA and Tim Marlow in conversation**

*Monday 20 March 2017*

Michael Craig-Martin RA will be in conversation with Tim Marlow, Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Arts. For registration and ticketing, please visit [Ticketflap.com](http://Ticketflap.com).

The University of Hong Kong's Grand Hall of the Centennial Campus; 5.30pm; Free upon registration.

### **About the Royal Academy of Arts**

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III of England 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 programmes promote 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 250<sup>th</sup> 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. For more information on the RA visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video)

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