

Allen Jones RA
Burlington Gardens

13 November 2014 – 25 January 2015

Lead series supporter:



This autumn the Royal Academy of Arts will present the first major exhibition of Allen Jones' work in the UK since 1995. As one of the UK's most influential and celebrated living artists, this will be a long-overdue appraisal of Jones' comprehensive contribution to British Pop art. *Allen Jones RA* will span the artist's entire career from the 1960s to the present. Comprising over 80 works, the exhibition will feature examples of Jones' paintings and sculpture, including the iconic furniture works from the late 60s, and new works created especially for this exhibition. Rarely-seen drawings will also be displayed to showcase Jones' exceptional skills as a draughtsman, and the important influence of the medium of drawing on his practice as a whole. Moving away from a traditional chronological approach, the works will be grouped into key sequences, to allow connections and common themes to emerge and to promote a comprehensive understanding of Jones' wide-ranging artistic practice.

Allen Jones is a key figure in British Pop art whose reputation was established in the 1960s at the Royal College of Art, London, where he studied alongside celebrated artists David Hockney RA, Derek Boshier, Peter Phillips RA and Ron Kitaj amongst others. This cohort of students was catapulted into the spotlight of the British art scene with a new visual language, firmly rooted in contemporary culture, and with the human figure often central to their work.

The female figure has remained an enduring interest for Jones, who has continually found fascination in popular culture's prolific and differing depictions of femininity, ranging from the erotic to the seductive and the glamorous. *Allen Jones RA* will present examples of portraits of cultural icons, for example a painting of Darcey Bussell and a new work of Kate Moss, reflecting the strong impact of cult images from 1960s America on his work. The exhibition will place a focus on Jones' sculptural depictions of the female figure, featuring perhaps his most famous and controversial works *Hat Stand* (1969), *Table* (1969) and *Chair* (1969), but also more recent examples, such as *Refrigerator* (2002) and *Light* (2002).

As a retrospective survey, *Allen Jones RA* will trace Jones' development as an artist. The selection of paintings will explore how the early influences of European painting traditions, seen in *Bikini Baby* (1962) and *Hermaphrodite* (1963), gave way to the influence of Abstract Expressionism. Jones made frequent and prolonged visits to America where he came to admire the pictorial innovations of his contemporaries Roy Lichtenstein and Tom Wesselmann in New York, and Ed Ruscha and Mel Ramos on the West Coast, with this inspiration clearly visible in *First Step* (1966).

The influences of city life, transport, advertising, music and cinema all provide equally fascinating subject matter for Jones to exploit and explore. For example, *2nd Bus* (1962) evokes the energy and movement of people on a mode of transport which was to become a cultural icon for London. Matching Jones' expansive world view is his ability to work with a wide variety of media, which is very much underpinned by his accomplished skills as a draughtsman. Drawing has played a key role throughout his career, and examples on display will explore the relationship between Jones' drawings and finished works. Borrowing freely from other forms of expression, Jones frequently employs storyboarding techniques to imbue his work with a cinematic sense of action and atmosphere. The result is a highly developed sense of performance, as seen in *Hot Wire* (1970) and *Three-Part Invention* (2002).

Allen Jones was elected a Royal Academician in 1986 and his work has been exhibited around the world in both solo and group exhibitions. Jones also designs for stage and television, with productions including *Oh Calcutta!* (Kenneth Tynan), *Männer wir kommen* (West Deutsche Rundfunk), *Satie/Cinema* (Ballet Rambert) and *Signed in Red* (Royal Ballet, London). Jones lives and works in London and Oxfordshire.

Organisation

Allen Jones RA has been organised by the Royal Academy of Arts, London, in close collaboration with the artist. It is curated by Edith Devaney, Curator and Head of Contemporary Projects at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Catalogue

The exhibition will be accompanied by a 96-page fully illustrated catalogue with contributions from Natalie Ferris, Marco Livingstone and Sir Norman Rosenthal.

Dates and Opening Hours

Press View: Tuesday 11 November 2014, 10am – 12pm
Open to public: Thursday 13 November 2014 – Sunday 25 January 2015
10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)
Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

Admission

£11.50 full price (£10 without Gift Aid donation); concessions available; children under 16 and Friends of the RA go free.

Tickets

Tickets for *Allen Jones RA* are available daily at the RA or online at www.royalacademy.org.uk. Group bookings: groups of 10+ are asked to book in advance. Telephone 020 7300 8027 or email adultgroups@royalacademy.org.uk.

Images

Publicity images for *Allen Jones RA* 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 folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

Social Media

Join the online discussion about the exhibition:

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About the Royal Academy of Arts and Burlington Gardens

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.

Burlington Gardens was designed by Sir James Pennethorne (1801-1871) and opened by Queen Victoria in 1870 as the Senate House of the University of London. The RA acquired Burlington Gardens in 2001, re-launching it in 2012 as its new space to exhibit contemporary art and architecture.

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