



**The Royal Academy of Arts announces its participation in the Lord Mayor's Show  
'Creating Wealth, Giving Time, Supporting People'  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

The Royal Academy of Arts is proud to be involved for the first time this year in the historic Lord Mayor's Show. Participants from the Royal Academy's Learning programme will join RA staff and volunteers to take part in the magnificent Lord Mayor's procession as it makes its way through London on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>.

The design concept for the RA's procession float is based on the Royal Academy of Arts' history and continuing commitment to the making of art. The making of art has been at the heart of the RA since it was established by artists in 1768. Today, the RA is dedicated to engaging people in the visual arts through making, exhibiting and learning. Our successful Learning Programme offers a wide variety of events and activities for the public to engage with and learn about visual culture and the RA. The programme reaches around 60,000 people every year, including access audiences, community partners, families and young people.

The float in the Lord Mayor's Show aims to demonstrate how the RA welcomes, partners and works with a wide range of people. The artwork of Tony Allan, a learning disabled artist from *Action Space* has been incorporated into the design of the procession to illustrate the creative wealth of the RA's partnership with a variety of groups and audiences. *Action Space* partners with the RA's Access Programme and Tony is a regular attendee of our creative workshops. He was particularly inspired by his visit to this year's Summer Exhibition and found a resonance with the work of Bob and Roberta Smith RA. His works which will form part of the procession focus on presenting his opinions about art and the art world.

Royal Academicians Mali Morris and Cathie Pilkington have generously contributed artworks to be reproduced in large scale for inclusion in the show. Morris's 'Bridge' and Pilkington's 'Self Portrait' and 'Reclining Doll' will appear as sandwich boards worn by participants in the procession as well as large-scale representations of previous Summer Exhibition posters, many of them designed by Royal Academicians throughout the years. Other participants will be carrying large-scale art materials to illustrate that the RA is still a place for the creation of art, both through the RA Schools and the creative workshops provided by the Learning Department.

The group will be led by two of the RA's Red Collars, who are very much symbols of history and tradition of welcoming and safeguarding visitors. The procession will involve participants from our Access Programme partners, *Action Space*, a group supporting the development of artists with learning disabilities, and *Portugal Prints*, part of *Westminster Mind*, a charity working with adults experiencing mental health issues; Community Programme partners, *Kids Company*, a charity providing practical, emotional and educational support to vulnerable inner-city children, and *Crisis*, a charity providing life-changing services to homeless people; families who attend the Learning department's weekend Family Studios, and students from the AttRAct programme. Jumpers bearing the slogans 'I give my time to the RA', 'RA Welcomes Families/One and All' will be worn by some of the participants to reinforce the overall theme of 'Creating Wealth, Giving Time, Supporting People'.

The Lord Mayor's Procession will fill the entire area between Mansion House and the Royal Courts of Justice in Aldwych on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November. It travels out via St Paul's between 11am and 12.30, and returns by the embankment between 1pm and 2.30.