Royal Academy of Arts
Press Release

RA SCHOOLS SHOW 2021 EXHIBITS WORK BY EMERGING ARTISTS

17 June – 4 July 2021
RA Schools Studios, Weston Studio and The Ronald and Rita McAulay Gallery
Online platform: Live from Tuesday 8 June 2021
Free Admission

The *RA Schools Show* 2021 presents the work of sixteen contemporary artists as they graduate from the Royal Academy Schools in 2021. Fourteen of the artists are from the class of 2020, as all the students at the RA Schools were offered the opportunity to do a catch-up year of study due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. For the first time, the exhibition is run alongside a digital platform, a parallel experimental project space that provides context to the artists' work and broader practices.

The onsite exhibition is shown across the students' working studios, the Weston Studio and The Ronald and Rita McAulay Gallery. Pieces have been produced with a wide range of media, including video and sound work, performance, sculpture and painting, encapsulating the artists' years of study at the RA Schools. This year works include a multiscreen installation exploring the use of electromagnetic fields in scientific research, a film screening housed in the fuselage of an aeroplane and interventions within the Royal Academy building itself.

The online platform provides information to visitors and enhances the experience of the onsite show, whilst retaining its own distinct identity. It engages with the possibilities and limitations of art on screen and displays new, virtual works. The platform makes use of sound, moving image, 3-D sculptural animation, text, performance and drawing.

The following artists are exhibiting: Ayo Akingbade, Irini Bachlitzanaki, Paul Barlow, Tania Blanco, Alexandre Canonico, Clara Hastrup, Harminder Judge, Lidija Kononenko, Amanda Kyritsopoulou, Toby Jury Morgan, Olu Ogunnaike, Liv Preston, Sofia Restorp, Carlos Maria Romero (Atabey Mamasita), Agnieszka Szczotka and Jenkin van Zyl.

Brian Griffiths, Senior Lecturer at the RA Schools and artist, said: "This isn't the compulsory, and rather dull – 'what we did on lockdown or my pandemic year gestures' exhibition. This is an expansive, vivid and witty show that reminds me of life's many shapes and glorious intensities."

Cathie Pilkington RA, Keeper of the Royal Academy of Arts, said: "I am incredibly proud to be able to present our real, physical RA Schools graduation show 2021. This is the RA Schools' first graduation show since I became Keeper in May 2020. It has been a year of exceptional circumstances, with the artists in this show moving between their studios at the RA, to remote learning and back again. It is a testament to the core values of the Royal Academy as the home of the UK's oldest independent Art School that we have been able to support our students through an additional academic year. I would like to extend my thanks to all the dedicated RA Schools team for

their enormous contributions towards realising this show and celebrate with our amazing students – originally the year of 2020 – who will finally have the opportunity to share their work."

Many of the works on display are available for sale and directly support the development of the students and the production of new work.

Dates and Opening hours

Open to Public:	Thursday 17 June – Sunday 4 July 2021
	10am – 6pm Tuesday to Sundays (last admission 5.30pm)
Online platform:	Goes live Sunday 6 June 2021

Tickets

Admission to the exhibition is free, however, advance booking is essential for everyone, including Friends of the RA. All visitors must have a pre-booked timed ticket to enter the building. Tickets can be booked in advance online (royalacademy.org.uk) or over the phone (0207 300 8090).

Images

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Safety measures

The health and safety of visitors and staff is paramount. Safety measures for visitors can be found on the RA website: royalacademy.org.uk/visiting-and-safety-during-coronavirus.

Call for applications 2022

Applications for the 2022 postgraduate programme at the Royal Academy Schools will be open from August to December 2021. To find out more, view the prospectus here.

Social media

Join the discussion online at:
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#RASchools

About the Royal Academy Schools

The Royal Academy Schools is an independent school of contemporary art that offers up to 17 artists each year the opportunity to participate in a free, three-year, postgraduate programme. Founded in 1769, the RA Schools remains independent to this day. This independence enables the postgraduate programme to constantly adapt to the individual needs of each student. Discussion and debate is fuelled by a variety of lectures, artist talks, group critiques and tutorials given by leading contemporary artists, Royal Academicians, critics, writers and theorists. Graduates of the RA Schools include Rebecca Ackroyd, Michael Armitage, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Rachel Jones, Eddie

Peake, Anthony Caro RA, JMW Turner and William Blake. The Keeper of the Royal Academy is Cathie Pilkington RA.

In February 2019, the Royal Academy announced a vital renewal project for the RA Schools, to ensure its future as a world-renowned institution, with a major gift of £10m from Julia and Hans Rausing. In recognition of this gift, the RA Schools buildings will be called *The Julia and Hans Rausing Campus*. Designed by Sir David Chipperfield CBE RA, who recently completed the Royal Academy's transformative redevelopment, together with Julian Harrap, the project will preserve the heritage of the RA Schools and ensure it remains at the forefront of art education. This restoration and renewal project will guarantee the RA Schools continues to provide an exceptional contemporary postgraduate art education.

About the Royal Academy of Arts

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.

The Royal Academy is an independent charity. It does not receive revenue funding from the government so is reliant upon the support of its visitors, donors, sponsors, patrons and loyal Friends.

For further press information and images please contact Gus Teasdale on 0207 300 5615 or gus.teasdale@royalacademy.org.uk

For public information, please print: 020 7300 8090 or Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, London W1J 0BD www.royalacademy.org.uk

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