

# RA

## Press Release

Royal Academy of Arts

# Summer Exhibition 2022

### THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS ANNOUNCES THE CHARLES WOLLASTON AWARD WINNER 2022

The prestigious £25,000 Charles Wollaston Award has been won by Uta Kögelsberger for her video work, *Cull*, in the Royal Academy's 254<sup>th</sup> Summer Exhibition. Established in 1978 and presented to the 'most distinguished work' in the exhibition, it is one of the most significant art prizes awarded in the UK.

Kögelsberger's 5-channel video installation *Cull* follows the gigantic task of the clear-up process after the devastating impact of wildfires. It charts the efforts of the teams responsible for cutting down the dead trees left standing, that are now endangering the remaining structures and roads. In a metaphor for the suspended sense of emergency we find ourselves in, each tree is documented as it comes crashing to the ground, seemingly out of nowhere, like dead carcasses, sometimes falling with such force that the earth beneath them shake.

*Cull* is the anchor piece of Kögelsberger's multi-faceted project *Fire Complex* that she initiated after the 2020 California Castle Fire destroyed 174,000 acres of Sequoia National Forest, including an estimated 10-14% of the world's Giant Sequoias and a large part of the community of Sequoia Crest, which also included Kögelsberger's cabin.

*Fire Complex* brings together photography and video in the public realm to raise momentum and resources for the regeneration of our forests. It also includes an ongoing collaborative replanting project. It is a project that starts with the personal to communicate a universal emergency and sets about making a difference for the future.

The judges for this year's award were Martha Kapos, Ian McKeever RA and Caroline Worthington. Previous winners of the Charles Wollaston Award: Naomi Wanjiku Gakunga (2021), Joe Tilson RA (2019), Mike Nelson RA (2018), Isaac Julien RA (2017), David Nash RA (2016), Rose Wylie RA (2015), Wolfgang Tillmans RA (2014), El Anatsui Hon RA (2013), Anselm Kiefer Hon RA (2012), Alison Wilding RA (2011) and Yinka Shonibare RA (2010).

Over £70,000 is offered in awards and prizes for every category of work in the Summer Exhibition. Further awards and prizes for this year's exhibition will be announced in due course.

### Uta Kögelsberger Biography

Uta Kögelsberger is a London based visual artist. Kögelsberger's artistic practice articulates and engages with social and political concerns through photography, video, sculpture, and

sound. Recent projects have included *Fire Complex*, a series of billboards and video works in response to the impact of the 2020 California wildfires (2020-ongoing), *Uncertain Subjects*, a durational billboard performance in the public realm in response to the social and political landscape in the UK in the run up to Brexit (2017-2019), the installation *Orchestra of Rocks* bringing together sculpture, sound and live performances to create a visceral interpretation of the impact of climate change (2016-2019), and the video installation *Off Road*, part of a trilogy of works investigating how the notion of freedom is lived out in the Western USA in relation to landscape (2008-2014).

Kögelsberger's work has been exhibited at the Vincent Price Museum, Los Angeles, Northridge Galleries, Los Angeles, *Art Night*, London, *Brighton Photo Biennial*, Bluecoat, Liverpool, Spacex Exeter, Southwark Park Galleries, London, the Architectural Association, London, the Barbican, London, Laurence Miller Gallery, NYC, and the Glassell Project Space MFAH, Houston. She has been awarded the Stanley Picker Fellowship, the Berwick Gymnasium Fellowship, the EAA Award for Art in Architecture and the SPD silver medal for editorial photography. Her photographic essays have been published in *Wired*, *Esquire*, *GQ* and *American Photography*. Her work is held in public and private collections including the MFAH (Museum of Modern Art Houston) and the LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum). For further information about Kögelsberger's project *Fire Complex* click [here](#) or go to [@fire\\_complex](#)

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About the Charles Wollaston Award**

The annual Royal Academy of Arts' Charles Wollaston Award was set up in 1978 with a donation from Charles Wollaston (1914-1992) who was an enthusiastic supporter of the RA and a lecturer in art. Following his death, the RA received a substantial bequest, which has enabled it to endow a £25,000 prize in perpetuity.

### **About the Summer Exhibition**

The Summer Exhibition is the world's largest open submission contemporary art show which has taken place at the Royal Academy of Arts every year without interruption since 1769.

The Summer Exhibition 2022 will run from Tuesday 21 June – Sunday 21 August 2022.

Tickets for the Summer Exhibition can be booked [here](#).

### **Summer Exhibition 2022 online**

Many of the works in the Summer Exhibition 2021 are available to browse and buy online through the [Summer Exhibition Explorer](#).

## **Social Media**

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

Facebook /royalacademy

Instagram @royalacademyarts

Twitter @royalacademy

#RASummer

### **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 public information, please print 020 7300 8090 or [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)**

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