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**THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS ANNOUNCES MICHAEL CRAIG-MARTIN RA AS THE COORDINATOR FOR THE SUMMER EXHIBITION 2015**

8 June –16 August 2015

Main Galleries



*London, 19 February 2015:* The Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition 2015 will be coordinated by the leading British artist and influential teacher, Michael Craig-Martin RA. The hanging committee for the Summer Exhibition includes Royal Academicians Norman Ackroyd, Olwyn Bowey, Gus Cummins, Jock McFadyen, David Remfry, Mick Rooney, Alison Wilding and Bill Woodrow. The architecture room will be curated by Ian Ritchie 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 work, which includes painting, printmaking, installations projections and drawing, depicts common place objects. Craig-Martin currently has a solo exhibition at the Himalayas Art Museum in Shanghai, China until 31 March and an upcoming exhibition at the Goss-Michael Foundation in Dallas, Texas in April 2015.

Craig-Martin’s teaching career started in 1966, but it is his period at Goldsmiths College, 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, including Damien Hirst and Sarah Lucas, and fellow Academicians Lisa Milroy, Gary Hume and Fiona Rae.

As the world’s largest open submission exhibition, the Summer Exhibition provides a unique platform for emerging and established artists and architects to showcase their works to an international audience, comprising a range of media from painting to printmaking, photography, sculpture, architecture and film. This year the Royal Academy received 12,000 entries, from which a committee of Royal Academicians, will make a selection to hang on the walls of the Main Galleries in Burlington House. Over 1,200 artworks will go on display, the majority of which will be for sale offering visitors an opportunity to purchase original artwork by high profile and up-and-coming artists.

One of the founding principles of the Royal Academy of Arts was to 'mount an annual exhibition open to all artists of distinguished merit' to finance the training of young artists in the Royal Academy Schools. The Summer Exhibition has been held every year without interruption since 1769 and continues to play a significant part in raising funds to finance the current students of the RA Schools. The RA Schools is the longest established art school in the UK and offers the only free three-year postgraduate programme in Europe. This link between the Summer Exhibition and the Schools is one that Michael Craig Martin particularly values: “It is not always fully appreciated that the funds raised by the Summer Exhibition contribute towards the funding of the RA Schools which are the only graduate art school in England which does not charge tuition fees.”

**Prizes**

Over £60,000 is offered in awards and prizes for every category of work in the Summer Exhibition. The prizes are listed below:

**The Royal Academy of Arts Charles Wollaston Award**

Established in 1978, the Royal Academy of Arts *Charles Wollaston Award* is, at £25,000, one of the largest and most prestigious art prizes in Britain. Previous winners include: Wolfgang Tillmans (2014), El Anatsui Hon RA (2013), Anselm Kiefer Hon RA (2012), Alison Wilding RA (2011), Yinka Shonibare RA (2010), Jeff Koons Hon RA (2008), Gavin Turk (2007), Jake and Dinos Chapman (2003), Alan Charlton (2002), Marc Quinn (2001), Gerard Hemsworth (2000) and David Hockney RA (1999).

**The Jack Goldhill Award for Sculpture:** £10,000 for a sculpture.

**The Hugh Casson Drawing Prize:** £5,000 for an original work on paper in any medium, where the emphasis is clearly on drawing.

**The Sunny Dupree Family Award for a Woman Artist:** £3,500 for a painting or sculpture.

**The London Original Print Fair Prize. Sponsored by Towry:** £2,500 for a print in any medium.

**Arts Club Charitable Trust Award:** £2,000 for a work in any medium (except architecture).

**The British Institution Awards:** Four prizes of £1,000 each awarded to student exhibitors for paintings, works on paper, sculpture and architecture.

**The Rose Award for Photography:** £1,000 for a photograph or series of photographs.

**Turkishceramics Grand Award for Architecture**: £10,000 awarded to the most outstanding work of architecture.

**The AKT II Architecture Prize**: £5,000awarded to an architect aged 35 or under for a work in any medium.

**Sponsor’s Statement**

Abdallah Nauphal, Chief Executive Officer of Insight Investment, said: “Insight Investment has been sponsoring the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition for a decade. When we started this partnership we were a relatively young organisation, but the exhibition was marking its 237th year. We were proud to be affiliated with an institution that plays such an important role in the cultural life of the nation.

“On the 247th anniversary of the world’s largest open-entry art exhibition, Insight continues to cherish this partnership. Our shared values are highlighted by the tremendous array of artwork you see on the walls and in the galleries of the exhibition: the pursuit of excellence; the potency of creative thinking; and the power of the imagination are all on display.

“These characteristics have helped drive Insight’s business success. Much has changed over the past decade and much more has changed over the past 247 years. Values, however, endure. We are honoured to sponsor the Summer Exhibition and hope each and every visitor will share our enthusiasm for this remarkable British institution.”

**About Insight Investment**

Insight Investment is a leading asset manager focused on designing investment solutions to meet our clients’ needs. Founded in 2002, Insight’s collaborative approach has delivered both investment performance and impressive growth in assets under management. Insight manages £363bn ($565bn) across fixed income, liability-driven investment, absolute return, cash management, multi-asset, specialist equity and currency strategies1. Insight Investment is owned by BNY Mellon, the global leader in investment management and investment services with $1.7 trillion in assets under management, as at 31 December 2014. The value of investments and any income from them will fluctuate and is not guaranteed (this may be partly due to exchange rate fluctuations). Investors may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

More information about Insight Investment can be found at: [www.insightinvestment.com](http://www.insightinvestment.com)

1 Assets under management are represented by the value of cash securities and other economic exposure managed for clients. The assets under management figure represents the combined assets under management of Insight Investment Management (Global) Limited and Pareto Investment Management Limited, which became part of the Insight group on 1 January 2013. Data as at 31 December 2014.

**Dates and Opening Hours**

**Press View: Wednesday 3 June, 10am – 2pm**

Open to public: Monday 8 June – Sunday 16 August 2015

 10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)

Late night opening: Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

**Admission**

Admission prices include the List of Works giving details on every exhibit in the show.

Adult ticket £13.50 (£12 excluding Gift Aid donation); concessions available; under 16s go free. Friends of the RA go free.

**Tickets**

Tickets are available daily at the RA or by visiting [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk).

Group bookings: Groups of 10+ are asked to book in advance. Telephone 020 7300 8027 or email groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk

**Images**

Publicity images for the Summer Exhibition can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association’s image service for press use. Please register at [www.picselect.com](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Csusieg%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5CRA9760R6%5Cwww.picselect.com) and once registered go to the Royal Academy of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

**Social Media**

Sign up to Royal Academy of Arts social media channels.

[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) @royalacademy #RASummer

[www.facebook.com/royalacademy](http://www.facebook.com/royalacademy)

**Notes to Editors:**

**Biographies**

[Michael Craig-Martin RA](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/michael-craig-martin-ra)

[Norman Ackroyd RA](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/norman-ackroyd-ra)

[Olwyn Bowey RA](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/olwyn-bowey-ra)

[Gus Cummins RA](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/gus-cummins-ra)

[Jock McFadyen RA](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/jock-mcfadyen-ra)

[David Remfry RA](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/david-remfry-ra)

[Ian Ritchie RA](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/ian-ritchie-ra)

[Mick Rooney RA](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/mick-rooney-ra)

[Alison Wilding RA](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/alison-wilding-ra)

[Bill Woodrow RA](https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/artist/bill-woodrow-ra)

**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.

**For public information please print 020 7300 8000 and** [**www.royalacademy.org.uk**](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

**Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD**

**For further press information, please contact Alexandra Bradley at the RA Press Office on 020 7300 5615 or** **press.office@royalacademy.org.uk**