



NEWLY CONSERVED WATERLOO CARTOON TO GO ON DISPLAY AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, Daniel Maclise's monumental drawing will be exhibited for the first time in over 40 years

London, 21 April 2015: The Royal Academy of Arts will display a newly conserved drawing of the Battle of Waterloo by Victorian artist Daniel Maclise RA (1809-1870), as the focus of the exhibition *Daniel Maclise: The Waterloo Cartoon*, **from 2 September** until 3 January 2016. A work of epic scale and dramatic force, *The Meeting of Wellington and Blücher after the Battle of Waterloo*, 1858-1859, is over 13 metres wide and 3 metres high and is one of the largest and most detailed cartoons to survive in the UK. Conservation treatment has been carried out at the Royal Academy to restore this unique work of art, which served as a preparatory drawing for a wall-painting still present today in the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords.

Monumental in size, *The Waterloo Cartoon* took Maclise over a year to complete (1858-59). As the Battle of Waterloo was still within living memory he carried out extensive research, studying eye witness accounts to ensure his depiction was plausible. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert even became involved in this process, using their contacts in Germany to gather information from Prussian officers who were present on the day. Maclise's image is remarkable for its lack of triumphalism, instead highlighting the stoicism of Wellington and Blücher when faced with human suffering and the tragedy of war.

The cartoon was considered to be a masterpiece of its time and was bought by the Royal Academy in 1870, the year of Maclise's death. It was on show at Burlington House until the 1920s when it was taken down and, due to its size and condition, remained in storage for much of the last century. A generous grant from Arts Council England has now allowed for recent conservation treatment ensuring that the cartoon can be displayed to the public, for the first time since 1972, during the 200th anniversary of this significant moment in British history.

Tim Marlow, Director of Artistic Programmes at the Royal Academy of Arts said, 'Epic doesn't begin to describe either Daniel Maclise's original drawings or the restoration project that *The Waterloo Cartoon* has just undergone. Only by seeing it will anyone fully understand its power, impact and importance'.

Daniel Maclise was a self-described 'Cockneyfied Corkonian' and a celebrated Irish painter and illustrator. He studied at the RA Schools from 1827 and proved to be a model student, winning numerous prizes including two Silver Medals for drawing and the Gold Medal for history painting in

1831. After his studies, Maclise also worked as a book illustrator and painted portraits, with notable sitters including Charles Dickens, Sir Walter Scott and Nicolo Paganini. In 1857 he took up the subject of *The Waterloo Cartoon*, to help secure the prestigious commission to paint a series of frescoes in the Royal Gallery at the House of Lords. This was part of the scheme spearheaded by Prince Albert to fill the new Houses of Parliament with grand, site-specific art works, celebrating the nation's heritage.

The Royal Academy of Arts will lend *The Waterloo Cartoon* to the Royal Armouries in Leeds for the exhibition *Waterloo 1815: The Art of Battle* from 23 May until 23 August 2015. It will then be returned to the Royal Academy for display from 2 September 2015.

Notes to Editors:

Cartoon

The term cartoon is derived from the Italian word 'cartone' which means a large sheet of paper. In this context, a cartoon is usually a full-size preparatory drawing for a fresco, painting or tapestry.

Supporter

The exhibition has been supported using public funding through Arts Council England. Arts Council England champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. They support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries - from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections.

Joyce Wilson, Area Director, London, Arts Council England, said, 'This is a wonderful conservation project that will once again enable the general public to view the last remaining cartoon produced in 1859 as part of an initiative to decorate the Houses of Parliament. The tremendous scale of the cartoon combined with the excellent draughtsmanship makes this a highly impactful piece and we are delighted to be able to support the Royal Academy of Art as it works to conserve *The Meeting of Wellington and Blücher after the Battle of Waterloo*.'

Publication

Featuring Maclise's masterpiece illustrated in its entirety in a full-colour fold-out, this concise publication delves into the history of Maclise's Cartoon with essays by curators Annette Wickham of Royal Academy of Arts and Mark Murray-Flutter of Royal Armouries. This publication is supported by the Royal Academy Collections and Library Circle.

Dates and Opening Hours

Open to public: 2 September 2015 – 3 January 2016

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

Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

Admission

Complimentary entry with a valid Royal Academy exhibition ticket, or £3 General Admission ticket. Friends of the RA and Under 16s go free.

Events

There will be public events taking place around this exhibition including talks and tours. Sign up to our events and lectures mailing list for further updates <https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/stay-up-to-date>

Social Media

Sign up to Royal Academy of Arts social media channels.

[@royalacademy](https://www.twitter.com/royalacademy) #MacliseWaterloo

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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 further press information, please contact Binita Dave on tel: 020 7300 5615 or email press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

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