

THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS AND THE PENINSULA HONG KONG LAUNCH NEW COLLABORATION WITH INSTALLATION BY ICONIC BRITISH ARTIST, RICHARD WILSON RA

Hong Kong, 4 March 2015: The Royal Academy of Arts and the Peninsula Hong Kong will co-present a public art installation in Hong Kong by leading British sculptor Richard Wilson RA. The first initiative in a three-year partnership between The Peninsula and the RA, Wilson's work is timed to coincide with the third edition of Art Basel in Hong Kong, and will be unveiled on **Thursday 12 March 2015**.

The work, *Hang On A Minute Lads... I've Got a Great Idea*, features a full-sized replica of a vintage twin-axle Harrington Legionnaire coach that appears to be teetering on the edge of The Peninsula's seventh-floor Sun Terrace on the hotel's iconic Grade I listed heritage façade. Inspired by the final line of the seminal 1969 British heist movie 'The Italian Job', as spoken by British screen legend Michael Caine, the work will be on display until 8 April 2015.

Overlooking The Peninsula's grand entrance, the kinetic sculpture weighs in at a hefty six and a half tonnes and at its core uses hydraulic equipment programmed to rock the coach by up to twelve degrees at random intervals, giving the impression that it could plunge to the ground at any moment. The work was originally created for the De La Warr Pavilion, a Grade I listed modernist building and arts centre located on the seafront in England's Bexhill-On-Sea.

Wilson, who has twice been nominated for the Turner Prize and who is best known for his ingenious sculptural installations that play with space, context and perception, said: *"The ultimate goal is to make something of structural daring, a spectacle teetering on the edge of being and not being, and between stability and collapse. It speaks of the limits one wanted to go as an artist, how daring one is willing to be in terms of sculptural ideas."*

Tim Marlow, Director of Artistic Programmes at the Royal Academy of Arts said, *"The Peninsula Hong Kong is one of the world's historic hotels. Situated in Kowloon, it is located at the heart of Hong Kong's vibrant developing arts scene, where the Hong Kong Museum of Art will soon be complemented by M+, the city's hotly anticipated future museum for visual culture. The Royal Academy is a place where art is made, restored, exhibited, discussed and debated. As an artist-led organisation, we are increasingly interested in presenting British artists and architects abroad and contributing to international dialogue about how art can be presented within the fabric of cities. Richard Wilson RA, one of Britain's most renowned sculptors, is a phenomenal artist to launch this programme. His work develops in dialogue with its environment, enlisting buildings as part of the sculpture. In effect he explores the boundaries of where sculpture ends and architecture begins – and vice versa – and he does so in ways which are at once playful, inventive, analytical and profound."*

Regional Vice President, The Peninsula Hotels and General Manager, The Peninsula Hong Kong, Ms Rainy Chan said: *"It was our wish to collaborate with an institutional art partner that shares the values of meaningfully bringing art to the community. Stemming from our combined 333-year history, the Royal Academy's deep commitment to art and its strong belief in the contribution that artists make to the world remains unchallenged. Celebrating The Peninsula's status as a Grade I-listed heritage building, we hope to work with artists to interact with the building in surprising and inspired ways. Ultimately, we would like to realise a dream, which is to showcase pioneering public art that excites, challenges and spurs dialogue."*

This year's partnership builds on the RA's recent collaborations with cultural and educational institutions across Asia. These have included exhibitions in Singapore, Japan, Qatar and Australia, an artist exchange programme in partnership with Hong Kong-based not-for-profit Arts in Heritage Research Limited and the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, and a student exchange programme with Tokyo University of the Arts. In 2014 the RA collaborated with Art Basel to provide an art-handling training scheme in Hong Kong. Prior to this, the RA initiated a professional development programme for Hong Kong arts professionals in partnership with the Hong Kong

government in 2012, and it has been behind a number of high-profile artist's talks in the city over the past two years.

Notes to editors

About The Work

Courtesy the Artist and Michelle D'Souza Fine Art. Originally commissioned by the De La Warr Pavilion, UK and generously supported by Eddie Izzard, the Arts Council England Grants for the Arts via the National Lottery and the Henry Moore Foundation, as part of the London 2012 Festival.

About Richard Wilson RA

Born in London in 1953, Richard Wilson RA is one of Britain's most renowned sculptors. He is internationally celebrated for his interventions in architectural space, which draw heavily from the worlds of engineering and construction. Twice nominated for the Turner Prize (in 1988 and 1989), his most notable works include *20:50* (1987), *A Slice of Reality* (2000), *Turning the Place Over* (2007), as well as most recently installing one of the largest public sculptures on permanent display in Europe, *Slipstream* (2014), at Heathrow Airport's newly opened Terminal Two Building.

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III of England 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 programmes promote the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

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