



Thinking through drawing: Chris Wilkinson RA

3 September 2015 – 14 February 2016

Tennant Gallery and Richard Sharp Council Room

London, 30 July 2015: This September, the Royal Academy of Arts presents an exhibition by the architect Chris Wilkinson RA (b. 1945) bringing together 30 years of his architectural drawings and sketchbooks. For an architect, the sketchbook is not just a place to draw but a place to order thoughts, to graphically and visually gather information and to develop a design response. *Thinking through drawing: Chris Wilkinson RA* will offer an extraordinary window into the architect's creative process, revealing the central role drawing plays within the development of a design.

Chris Wilkinson RA believes passionately in the importance of drawing by hand, particularly in an age dominated by digital media. This exhibition contains a selection of Wilkinson's sketchbooks, drawings and watercolours from the last three decades, alongside architectural objects. They reveal his design thinking, from initial site studies and early concepts to design development and constructions on projects including the Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth, Maggie's Centre, Oxford, and the Kings Cross Gasholders. A specially commissioned film by Candida Richardson will accompany the exhibition.

Chris Wilkinson OBE RA DipArch RIBA Hon FAIA FCSD is the founder of WilkinsonEyre. After working in several leading architectural practices, he set up his own practice Chris Wilkinson Architects and achieved success with two Jubilee line projects, Stratford Station and Stratford Market Depot, as well as with Millennium Projects, Explore @Bristol and Magna, which won the Stirling Prize in 2001. Chris has won prizes for the Guangzhou International Finance Center, China, the Mary Rose Museum, UK, and the Crown Sydney Resort Hotel on the Darling Harbour Waterfront, Australia. He received an OBE in 2000, election to the Royal Academy of Arts in 2006, an Honorary Fellowship of the American Institute of Architecture and Honorary doctorates at Westminster University and Oxford Brookes University. He has been a Commissioner of English Heritage and is Patron of the Civic Trust Awards. He is author of *Supersheds* and co-author of *Bridging Art & Science, Exploring Boundaries, Tectonics* and *Works*.

Publication

The Sketchbooks of Chris Wilkinson, published by the Royal Academy of Arts, is available online at shop.royalacademy.org.uk and from the RA shop in hardcover priced at £16.99.

Dates and Opening Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 4pm

Saturday – Sunday, 10am – 6pm

Closed Mondays

Admission

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

Images

Publicity images for *Thinking through drawing: Chris Wilkinson RA* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.picselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

Social Media

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

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

www.facebook.com/royalacademy

Related Events

For information or to book, visit royalacademy.org.uk/events or telephone 020 7300 5839. Reductions are available for students, jobseekers and individuals with disabilities with recognised proof of status.

Curator's Tour

Saturday 19 and Tuesday 22 September

Kate Goodwin, Head of Architecture and Drue Heinz Curator at the Royal Academy of Arts, leads an introductory tour of *Thinking through drawing: Chris Wilkinson RA*.

Tennant Gallery, 3-3.30pm; Free

Dialogue: Chris Wilkinson RA in conversation

Friday 16 October

Chris Wilkinson RA discusses the practice of drawing with a renowned artist.

Reynolds Room, 6.30-8pm; £12/£6 reductions

About the Tennant Gallery

Located on the north side of Burlington House, the Tennant Gallery is a dedicated space within the Royal Academy for the display of works on paper, for which light levels must be carefully controlled. A changing programme of displays drawn from the Royal Academy Collections and the work of Royal Academicians runs throughout the year.

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 Annabel Potter on 020 7300 5615 or annabel.potter@royalacademy.org.uk

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