



**white: a project by Edmund de Waal**

26 September 2015 – 3 January 2016

The Royal Academy Library and Print Room

This September, the Royal Academy of Arts will present *white*, a project conceived and curated by the artist and writer, Edmund de Waal. On display throughout the Library and Print Room of the Royal Academy, the exhibition will be a personal exploration of the colour white, an expression of de Waal's ongoing fascination with its use, meanings and impact. De Waal has chosen over 40 works from the RA Collection and private collections including sculpture, paintings, photographs and books, to interweave throughout the Library. It is the first time this space at the RA has been curated by an artist.

White is not a neutral colour: it forces other colours to reveal themselves. Its blankness suggests both beginnings and endings, while its purity evokes impossibility and obsession. With a connection to abstraction, minimalism and the spiritual, white has had special significance to artists across generations. It has fascinated de Waal since he made his first white pot as a child.

The exhibition endeavours to look at white as both object and experience. Works will include J.M.W. Turner's porcelain palette, a white-washed sculpture by Cy Twombly, John Cage's 4'33" manuscript, Kazimir Malevich's *Suprematist Teapot*, the death mask of Francis Chantrey RA, the life mask of Thomas Banks RA and the ivory netsuke of a hare with amber eyes. One of the first pieces of white porcelain made in the West, a delicate Meissen cup of 1715, will also feature alongside porcelain installations by de Waal. This is a project in a working library, a quiet journey of discovery through the spaces.

Edmund de Waal is an artist whose work is exhibited in museums and galleries around the world. His bestselling memoir, *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, won the RSL Ondaatje prize and the Costa Biography Award. In 2015 he was awarded the Windham-Campbell prize for non-fiction by Yale University.

**Library and Print Room Opening Hours**

Open to public: Thursday to Sunday, 10am–6pm (Fridays until 10pm)

Closed: Monday to Wednesday

The RA Library is open to readers by appointment Mondays to Wednesdays only.

**Tickets**

All tickets £5. Under 16s go free.

Timed entry slots will operate. Booking essential.

## Publication

To coincide with the project at the Royal Academy, Edmund de Waal's *The White Road: a pilgrimage of sorts* will be published by Chatto & Windus on 24 September 2015.

*The White Road* is acclaimed author and artist Edmund de Waal's intimate journey in search of porcelain, a substance he has been obsessed with for most of his life. It is a journey across continents that begins in Jingdezhen, China, the birthplace of porcelain, and continues to Venice, Versailles, Dublin, Dresden, the Appalachian Mountains of South Carolina and the English south-west.

For further information about the publication please contact Kate Bland and Mari Yamazaki: 020 7840 8688 or [yamazakibland@randomhouse.co.uk](mailto:yamazakibland@randomhouse.co.uk)

## Images

Publicity images for *white: a project by Edmund de Waal* can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at [www.picselect.com](http://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 #RAwhite](http://www.twitter.com) [www.facebook.com/royalacademy](http://www.facebook.com/royalacademy)

## Evening Event

### Edmund de Waal and Aurora Orchestra

*Monday 9 November*

Join us to celebrate *On White*, a collaborative festival exploring the meaning of white, with the artist and writer Edmund de Waal joining forces with Aurora Orchestra to commission a new work by the Scottish composer Martin Suckling. This performance is a reflection of the conversations that can be had between the musical and the visual. Edmund de Waal's new book, *The White Road*, will be on sale following the event.

*Reynolds Room; 6.30–7.30pm; £25/£20 reductions (incl. a drink)*

For information or to book: [www.royalacademy.org.uk/events](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/events) or 020 7300 5839. Reductions are available for students, jobseekers and individuals with disabilities with recognised proof of status.

## 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 or [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 Johanna Bennett on 020 7300 5615 or [press.office@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:press.office@royalacademy.org.uk)**

**10/08/15**