



# RA

Royal Academy Schools  
**Prospectus**

Thank you for your interest in the Royal Academy Schools unique three-year postgraduate programme.

Although the Royal Academy Schools are steeped in the atmosphere of history and tradition, I am keen to emphasise that we are a school of contemporary art. Our full-time studio programme attracts individuals with distinct artistic identities who wish to develop their work and exchange ideas; undertaking our programme requires considerable commitment and dedication.

Selecting and interviewing applications for a place remains our most significant annual task. This Prospectus contains all the information you will need, should you decide to apply.

I am extremely proud that the Royal Academy Schools remains both independent and free of tuition fees to all who study here.

**Eileen Cooper RA**

*Keeper of the Royal Academy*

The RA Schools is an independent art school focused on the professional development of the artist. Being independent gives us the freedom to invent what we do and underpinning that invention is always the question, 'what is useful to the artist?'

We aim to clarify an endeavour, to examine a practice and support its singularity.

**Eliza Bonham Carter**

*Curator & Head of Schools*





**Newton Investment Management  
is delighted to sponsor the Royal  
Academy Schools.**

The Royal Academy Schools, the oldest art school in Britain, is highly regarded throughout the world as a centre of excellence. It is a living, breathing institution that has been at the heart of the RA since its foundation in 1768. We are thrilled to help the Schools support the talented individuals who have the commitment and skills to shape the future of the visual arts and ensure that its students are able to attend on merit alone.

**Helena Morrissey, CBE**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
*Newton Investment Management*

**NEWTON**  
Investment Management

The Royal Academy Schools thrives on the exceptional ability, commitment and intellectual inquiry of our students. Our aim is to provide an environment in which you can test out and re-evaluate your practice.

We welcome applicants who want to engage at an advanced level with their own work, and importantly, the work of their peers. As a student at the RA Schools you will form part of a diverse group of motivated individuals who aim to develop their work in an environment of discourse and investigation.

A total of 40-55 places are available at the RA Schools at any one time, set across three year groups.

The high tutor/student ratio ensures that the individual art practice is subject to sustained discussion and that conversations with visiting artists can be as long and in-depth as they need to be.

The comparatively small size of the schools also allows us to be in a constant state of evolution, inflected by the contribution and experience of our participants. Your ideas and interests are at the heart of the programme.

The RA Schools does not charge tuition fees to anyone. It is part of the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) and is supported by the RA's own endowment, by corporate supporters, trusts and foundations, Friends of the Royal Academy, individual patrons and fundraising events such as the Annual Auction.





---

## About the programme

The programme is three years, full-time. We welcome artists working in all media and representing a diverse range of positions and approaches. Students work closely with each other, with an emphasis on constructive critique and peer learning.

You will have a studio space whatever the nature of your practice, as spacious and open plan as possible. Students have access to specialist workshops in all media and instruction in new skills and technical support in realising projects is available.

A full programme of lectures, seminars and visiting artists forms the structure of the working week and exposes you to new voices and methodologies.

---

## Course structure

Each of the three year groups has a designated Senior Lecturer who will work closely with you and your peers:

**Year 1** Mary Maclean  
**Year 2** Richard Kirwan  
**Year 3** Brian Griffiths

---

## Tutorials

In addition to core staff you will meet an array of visiting artists representing a range of perspectives for one-to-one tutorials.

---

## Last years visiting artists

Gudrun Bielz  
Steven Claydon  
Quilla Constance  
Kate Corder  
Alex da Cunha  
Matthew Darbyshire  
Peter Davies  
Tim Ellis  
Nooshin Farhid  
Anne Hardy  
Vanessa Jackson  
Sarah Jones  
Janice Kerbel  
Michael Landy RA  
Liane Lang  
John Lawrence  
Robert Leckie  
Dawn Mellor  
Tom Morton  
Hayley Newman  
Sally O'Reilly  
Dan Perfect  
Heather Phillipson  
Amalia Pica  
Cathie Pilkington RA  
Sam Porritt  
Fiona Rae RA  
Andreas Reiter Raabe  
Danny Rolph  
Neil Rumming  
Anne Ryan  
Tai Shani  
Daniel Sinsel  
Bridget Smith  
Nicholas Stewart  
Catherine Story  
Alexis Teplin  
Cara Tolmie  
Martin Westwood





## Artist Talks

A programme of talks, screenings, performance, selected and invited by the second year and representing a multitude of approaches. Last year's talks:

Cally Spooner  
 Simon Callery  
 Clunie Reid  
 Jeremy Deller  
 Michael Landy RA  
 Jennifer Higgle  
 Jockum Nordstrom  
 Felipe Castelblanco (Starr Fellow)  
 Bruce McLean  
 Marc Camille Chaimowicz  
 Heather Phillipson  
 Marvin Gaye Chetwynd  
 Linder Sterling  
 Florian Roithmayr  
 Jessica Warboys  
 John Russell  
 Richard Wilson RA

## Monday Lectures

Delivered by key thinkers, writers, scientists, cultural theorists, film-makers and so on, the lecture series covers theoretical, philosophical and political ground. Recent speakers:

Howard Barker  
 Peter Buse  
 Roger Cook  
 Alexander Düttmann  
 Chantal Faust  
 Jeremy Gilbert Rolfé  
 Piers Gough RA  
 Tim Green  
 Patrick Keiller  
 Esther Leslie  
 Doreen Massey  
 Chantal Mouffe  
 Simon O'Sullivan  
 Paul Robinson  
 Stella Sandford  
 Aura Satz  
 Jo Shapcott  
 David Toop  
 Donato Wharton  
 Stephen Wilson  
 Patrick Wright

## Group critiques

In the autumn and summer terms, you will present work for regular group feedback, led by your year tutor and involving visiting artists.

## Cross-year events

In the spring term you will participate in cross-year critiques, seminars, site visits, workshops and other events.






---

## Exhibitions

### Year 2

A major exhibition of second year work is held in the galleries of the Royal Academy during spring term, marking the halfway point of the programme. This is an opportunity to make important decisions, evaluate your progress and work as a group to install the show. For historic reasons the event is called 'Premiums'.

### Year 3

At the end of your third year the RA Schools' studios are transformed into large exhibition spaces that attract thousands of visitors and professional scrutiny.

---

## Texts

The written component of the programme is an opportunity to explore ideas that arise in the studio in a different form.

A short piece completed during the first year addresses themes and concerns informing your practice. Later in the second year and over the summer break you produce a longer text (approx 6000 words). This text may or may not be formally academic, it could be written as a letter, an article, a script. Practitioners in the field of art-writing read and work through your writing with you, investigative research and reading are highly valued.

---

## Travel Opportunities

Whilst at the RA Schools you can apply for a number of short-term exchanges and residencies. Currently these include:

### **Peter Doig Studio**

*Kunstakademie Düsseldorf*

### **Tokyo University of the Arts (Geidai)**

### **Tropical Lab**

*Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore*

### **Red Mansion Foundation Residency**

*Beijing, China*

### **Lokaal 01**

*Antwerp, Belgium*

There are further opportunities to travel to America for shorter investigative visits.

We organise an annual, subsidised group study visit - in recent years to *Documenta* in Kassel, Frankfurt, New York, Istanbul, Berlin, Rome and *Venice Biennale*.



## Professional Practice

Many aspects of managing a career as an artist are discussed one to one in tutorials and other conversations. We hold further specialised seminars covering subjects such as accounting, copyright law and the operations of galleries, curators and critics.

Third years are offered the opportunity to gain teaching experience, with art schools across the country from Glasgow to Falmouth.

## Events

We curate a number of public events each year including lectures and panel discussions. These have included Frank Stella Hon RA, Georg Baselitz Hon RA, Anselm Kiefer Hon RA, Tracey Emin RA in conversation with Matthew Collings, Thomas Hirschhorn, Richard Wentworth, Glenn Brown, Jan Verwoert, 'A Talk' with Andreas Rieter Raabe, Franz West and Sarah Lucas; Wolfgang Tillmans RA, Wim Wenders, Richard Tuttle in conversation with Richard Schiff, VALIE EXPORT, Chris Kraus, Nicolas Bourriaud, Vanessa Jackson and Carlos Cruz-Diez.

We have hosted a number of symposia that have grown out of discussions within the RA Schools. For further information and webcasts please see [royalacademy.org.uk/raschools/schools-events](http://royalacademy.org.uk/raschools/schools-events)



## Facilities

Our specialist workshops are staffed by experienced and skilled instructors. All staff are practicing artists, with extensive exhibition and studio experience. Experimentation with new technical skills is supported through a series of workshops timetabled in response to you and your peer-group's needs. Where we cannot provide you with direct support in a particular medium we endeavour to connect you to our extensive network of external workshops and expertise.

### Wood Workshop

Stretcher-making facilities for painters, plus a full range of power, hand and industry standard wood working tools including mitre, vertical, circular, fret and band saws, drills, and a lathe.

### Sculpture Workshop

A range of materials and approaches including metal work, plaster and clay works, resin, casting, rubber mould making and a spray booth area.

### Printmaking Workshops

Etching, relief and screen-printing. A range of presses, processing equipment and editioning facilities.

### Epsom Digital Suite

Large format digital printers designed to print on a wide range of substrates supported by a series of Mac workstations, scanning equipment and additional portable laser and inkjet facilities.

### Media Suite

Full editing equipment; green and blue screen facilities and software capabilities for digital moving image production. Photographic, audio-visual and media presentation equipment for loan includes high-end digital SLR cameras, High Definition video cameras, a large format camera, lighting, monitors, production backdrops and sound recorders.

### Photographic Darkroom

Available for black+white analogue photographic works.

### Bookable Project Spaces

Provided short-term to facilitate work that may need more room or focus outside of the open-plan studio spaces.

### IT Suite

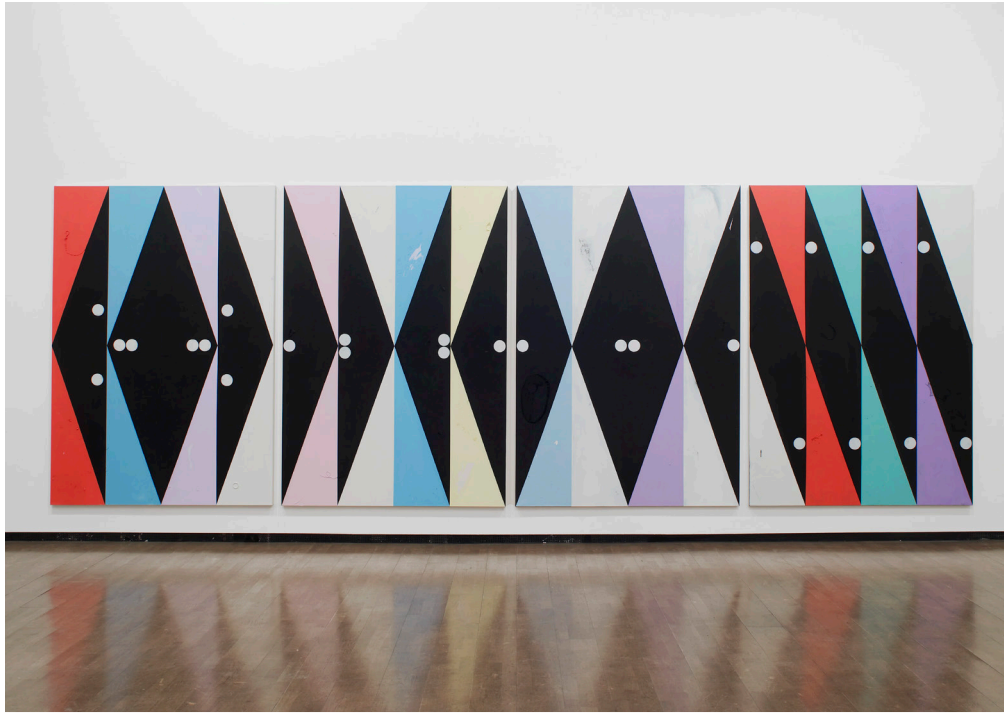
Fully networked PCs with printing and photocopying facilities. Wi-Fi is available throughout the studios.

### Royal Academy Library

Books, exhibition catalogues, monographs, art magazine subscriptions and periodicals on international contemporary and historical art are all available on loan. Special library collections also include examples of early printed and illustrated books, and the RA's permanent collection of paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings and photographs.











## Opening times

### Term Time

Monday to Friday, 8am – 9pm

Saturday 9am – 6pm

Closed Sunday

### Summer Term

Monday to Friday, 8am – 10pm

Saturday, 9am – 6pm

Sunday, 10am – 6pm

### Holidays

Monday to Friday, 9am – 6pm

We aim to keep the studios open whenever possible.

Left: View of Mat Ager's studio  
Below: Second Year crit





---

## Staff

### Keeper of the Royal Academy

Eileen Cooper RA

### Curator & Head of RA Schools

Eliza Bonham Carter

### Senior Lecturers

Brian Griffiths  
Richard Kirwan  
Mary Maclean

### Head of Fine Art Processes

Mark Hampson

### Print Tutors

Guler Ates  
Leigh Clarke  
Hen Coleman  
Barton Hargreaves  
Simon Lawson

### Digital Media Tutor

Yasu Ichige

### Workshop Manager

Richard Elliott

### Workshop Assistant

Peter Donaldson

### Programme & Alumni Relations Manager

David Cooper

### RA Schools Administrator

Joanna Thomas

### PA to Keeper & Curator

Sally Parekh

---

## Professors

### Professor of Architecture

Piers Gough RA

### Eranda Professor of Drawing

Michael Landy RA

### Professor of Painting

Fiona Rae RA

### Professor of Perspective

Humphrey Ocean RA

### Professor of Sculpture

Richard Wilson RA

### Professor of Anatomy

Gerald Libby

### Professor of Chemistry

Tim Green

### Professor of Computer Vision

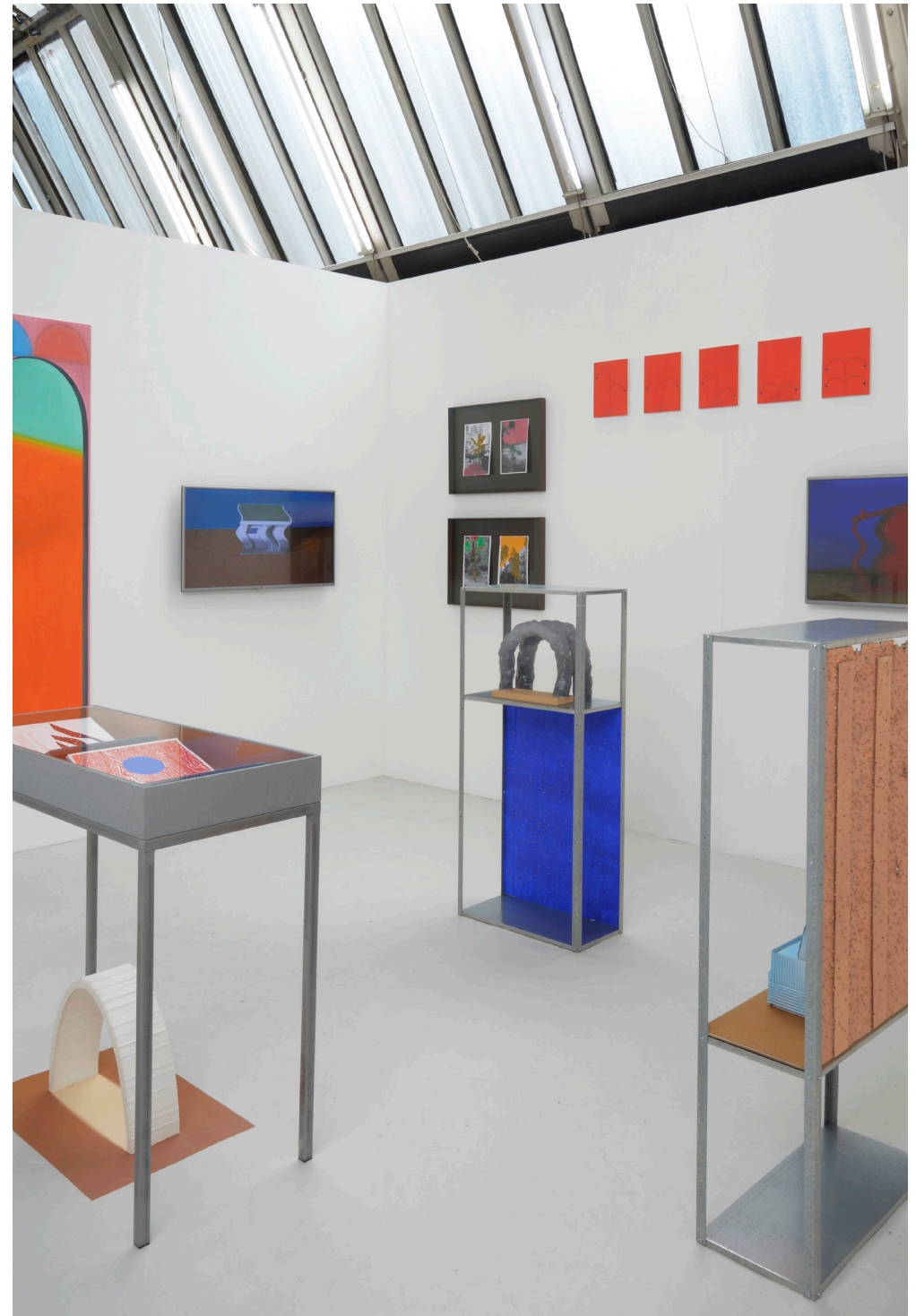
Roberto Cipolla

---

## Visiting Professors

Helen Sear

Jan Verwoert





---

## What to consider

The programme is full-time and intensive. You will need to be in the studios and workshops making work, you will need to participate in group crits, sign up for tutorials, attend lectures and talks, produce two texts and work towards two shows. You may need to find time outside of this to undertake a part-time job, in the evenings and at weekends. This must be planned for outside of studio hours.

We are able to offer bursaries and materials grants and though these only contribute a small amount towards full living costs it does mean that more time can be spent in the studios and less earning money. We will support you in applications for any relevant funding opportunities.

You may choose to use the sustained time at the RA Schools to concentrate in the studio or you may also take part in exhibitions externally. However we must emphasise the necessary pre-eminence of your commitment to the RA Schools programme and requirements over other demands.

The postgraduate diploma is not a Masters degree. Those on the programme study here in order to develop as professional artists, rather than to gain a qualification.

**Applicants are advised that there are planned building works across the Royal Academy site between 2015 - 2019. Although these plans include work that will affect some of the studios, the RA Schools will do everything possible to minimise the impact on the programme. More information will be available at our open days, and at interview.**

---

## Entrance Requirements

Candidates have usually gained a BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art or have equivalent experience. In recent years we have accepted candidates straight from BA but the majority have been working independently as artists.

We consider applications from those who have an MA but currently none of our students have this qualification. Candidates may have exhibited widely in group or solo shows, but it is not required.

---

## Who should apply?

The current age range for applicants to the RA Schools is from mid-20s to mid 40's, with no upper age limit for candidates. There are between 14-17 places per year group.

In an applicant we look first for evidence of a strong practice; second that the candidate is looking for evolution in their work and that their practice is not fixed; third that they have a desire and capacity to be critically engaged with their own work and that of others.

When offering a place at the Schools, we aim to put together a diverse group that represents the breadth of contemporary art practice.

---

## Key Dates

### Open Days

7 October 2015 2.15pm  
14 October 2015 2.15pm  
21 October 2015 2.15pm

### Application Submission Period

1 October – 1 December 2015

### Deadline for initial applications for international candidates only

30 October 2015

### Deadline for all Applications

1 December 11.59PM GMT

### Shortlisted Applicants Notified

Late January 2016

### Interviews February 2016

---

## How to apply

Your application will be submitted online through *SlideRoom* and will consist of the following sections:

- 1 Personal Details
- 2 Education
- 3 Application Statement
- 4 Equality and Diversity
- 5 CV Upload (Optional)
- 6 Reference
- 7 Media / Portfolio
- 8 Application Fee Payment

*SlideRoom* will guide you through each part of your application and automatically save your progress. For further details on specific requirements for all above sections, and to get started please visit **[raschools.slideroom.com](http://raschools.slideroom.com)**

If you need technical assistance with your online application, please visit our searchable support pages or email **[support@slideroom.com](mailto:support@slideroom.com)**

For enquiries relating to eligibility and application content, please come and speak to us at our open days. If you are not based in the UK and cannot find the information you require, email **[admissions@raschools.org.uk](mailto:admissions@raschools.org.uk)** or phone us on **+4420 7300 5650**.

---

## Do not submit your application by post

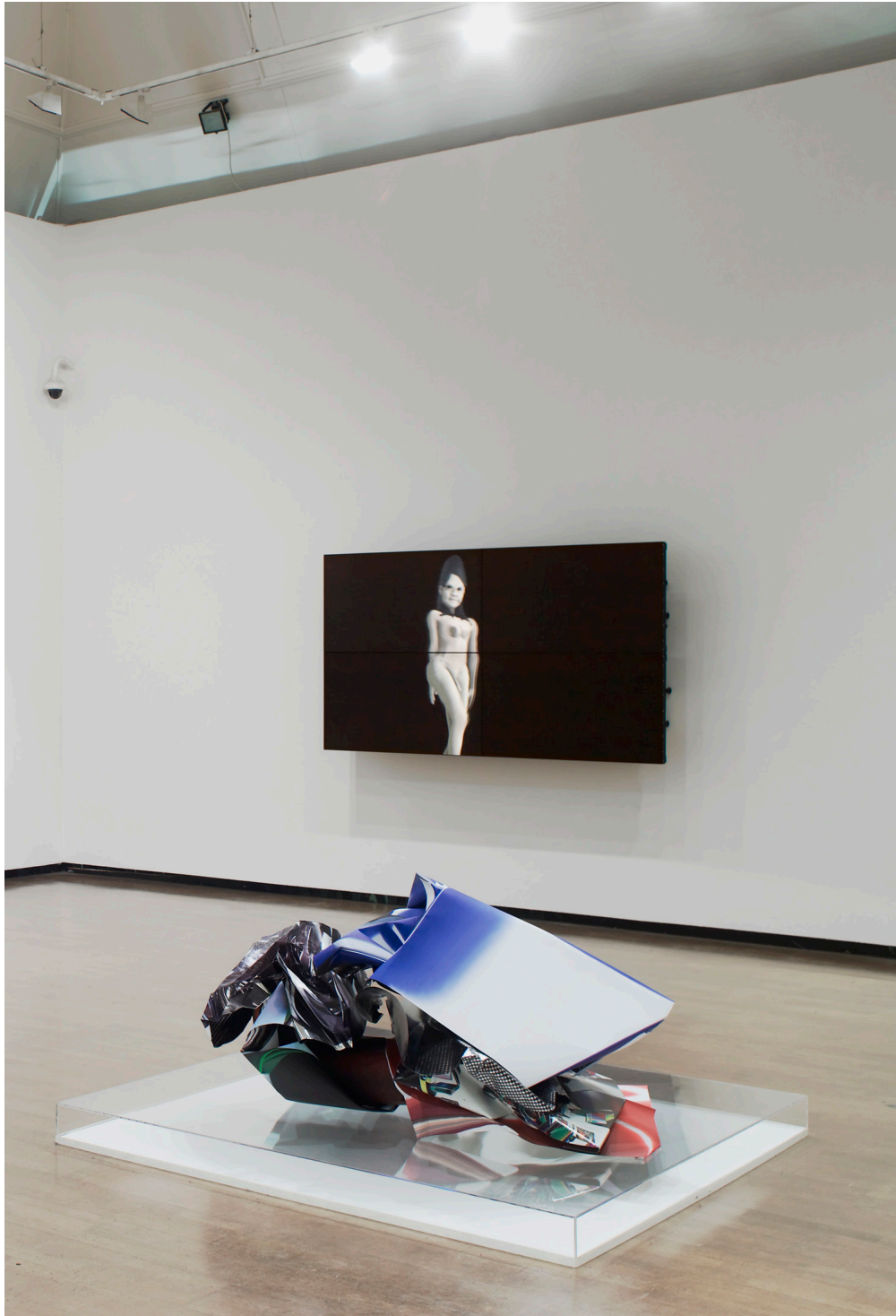
**It will not be accepted and we are unable to return it to you. We guarantee that all correctly submitted applications are given careful consideration.**







Left: Installation view of digital animation and sculpture by Elliot Dodd, Premiums Interim Projects 2015. Below: Installation view of performance/video by Claire Undy, Premiums Interim Projects 2015



---

## Interviews

We do not offer places without interviewing the candidate in person.

If you are shortlisted for interview you will be informed in January 2016.

Interviews will take place in February 2016.

Interviews last for approximately 30 minutes.

You should bring a selection of work to your interview that best represents your current practice.

The interviewing room has ample wall and floor space and is equipped with a video projector.

If relevant you can also bring supporting sketchbooks or notebooks.

We do not restrict the number of works that you can bring to your interview but be aware that you will be given only 10 minutes to set up.



---

## International candidates

This section applies only to candidates who are a national of a country outside of the European Economic Area (EEA).

We welcome international applications however our independent status renders us ineligible to the UK Borders Agency for International Student VISAs. Therefore international candidates we accept onto the RA Schools Postgraduate Programme need to be successful in a subsequent application for a UK Tier 1 VISA through the Exceptional Promise VISA scheme. We will do all that we can to support this application.

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/our-priorities-2011-15/developing-talent-artists/tier-1-VISAs/>

---

The application process for international candidates consists of the following stages:

**1**

### Initial Application for International Candidates only

We ask international candidates to complete a short online application prior to applying in full. SlideRoom will guide you through each part of your initial application. To get started please visit [raschools.slideroom.com](http://raschools.slideroom.com)

**2**

### Video Interview

On receipt of the above application we will set up a video interview with candidates who best meet our criteria. This interview will allow us to assess your eligibility and outline the VISA application process. Video interviews will take place in early November. You will be invited by email.

**3**

### Full RA Schools Postgraduate Programme Application

After your video interview we will advise you to submit a full application if you are eligible and meet our criteria. Candidates that are ineligible or do not meet our criteria will be advised not to submit a full application.

See *How to Apply* in this prospectus or visit [raschools.slideroom.com](http://raschools.slideroom.com) to begin your full application.

**4**

### Shortlisting

Your full application will be assessed alongside all other applications to our programme. There is no guarantee that you will be shortlisted for interview.

**5**

### Interview and VISA Application

If you are shortlisted for interview and subsequently offered a place on our programme, you will need to submit your own application for a Tier 1 Exceptional Promise UK VISA. We will do all that we can to support your application.

---

**To begin your Initial Application please visit [raschools.slideroom.org.uk](http://raschools.slideroom.org.uk)**

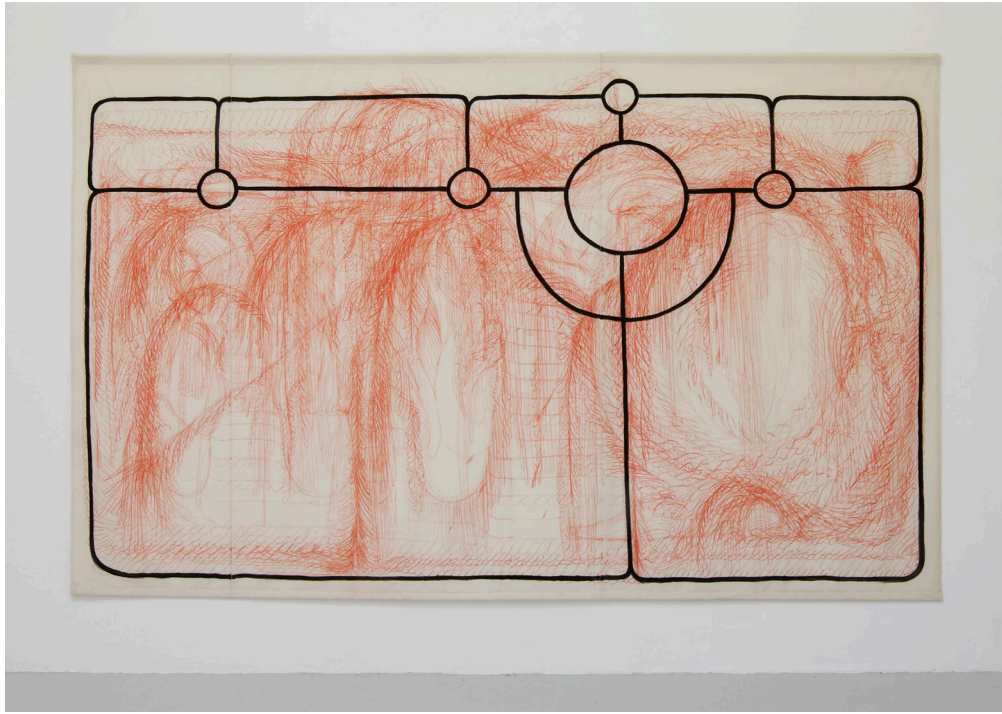
**The deadline for initial applications for international candidates is 30 October 2015.**

If you need technical assistance with your online application, please visit our searchable support pages or email [support@slideroom.com](mailto:support@slideroom.com)

For enquiries relating to eligibility and application content and cannot find the information you require, email [admissions@raschools.org.uk](mailto:admissions@raschools.org.uk) or phone us on +4420 7300 5650.







RA Schools Patrons

Chair

Keir McGuinness

Platinum Patrons

Mr Hugo Eddis  
Mr Mark Hix  
Lance and Lisa West

Gold Patrons

Sam and Rosie Berwick  
Mrs Sarah Chenevix-Trench  
Rosalyn and Hugo Henderson  
Christopher Kneale  
Mr William Loschert  
Mr Keir McGuinness  
Carol Sellars

Silver Patrons

Lord and Lady Aldington  
Mrs Elizabeth Alston  
Ms Sara Berman  
Joanna Bird  
Alex Haidas and Thalia Chryssikou  
Rosalind Clayton  
Mr Richard Clothier  
Mark and Cathy Corbett  
Ms Davina Dickson  
Mrs Dominic Dowley  
Miss Roxanna Farboud  
Mrs Catherine Farquharson  
Catherine Ferguson  
Mr Mark Garthwaite  
Mrs Michael Green  
Mr and Mrs G Haramish  
Mr Lindsay Hamilton  
Mr Philip Hodgkinson  
Professor and Mrs Ken Howard RA  
Mark and Fiona Hutchinson  
Mr Charles Irving  
Mrs Marcelle Joseph  
Mr and Mrs S Kahan  
Mr Paul Kempe  
Nicolette Kwok  
Mrs Anna Lee  
Mr and Mrs Mark Loveday  
Philip and Val Marsden  
The Lord and Lady Myners  
Mr William Ramsay  
Ms Mouna Rebeiz  
Mr David Remfry MBE RA  
Peter Rice Esq  
Anthony and Sally Salz  
Brian D Smith  
Miss Sarah Straight  
Mr Simon Thorley QC  
Mr Ray Treen  
Marek and Penny Wojciechowski  
Mrs Diana Wilkinson

Patron Donor

Mrs Dounia Nadar

And others who wish to remain anonymous

The Schools is also pleased to acknowledge support from the following donors:

Major Donors

The Eranda Foundation  
The David Lean Foundation  
The Leverhulme Trust  
Ivor Rey  
Mrs Stella Shawzin  
Pauline Sitwell

Donors

Adobe Systems Europe  
Artists Collecting Society  
The Charlotte Bonham-Carter Charitable Trust  
William Brake Charitable Trust  
British Airways  
Champion Timber  
Epson  
The Gilbert and Eileen Edgar Foundation  
The Gordon Foundation  
Hiscox PLC.  
The Holbeck Charitable Trust  
Intrinsic Value Investors  
J M Finn & Co  
The Jerwood Charitable Foundation  
John Purcell of John Purcell Papers  
Jones Day  
The Maccabaeans  
The Machin Foundation  
Adriaan de Mol van Otterloo  
Peter T Rippon  
Stanley Picker Trust  
The Edith and Ferdinand Porjes Charitable Trust  
Rootstein Hopkins Foundation  
The Rose Foundation  
The Archie Sherman Charitable Trust  
Shiraz Software  
Sir Paul Smith and Lady Pauline Denyer-Smith  
Sotheby's  
The South Square Trust  
The Starr Foundation  
Tilgear Ltd  
Tiranti Ltd  
Vertu  
Celia Walker Art Foundation  
The Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation  
Chelsea Arts Club  
Land Securities  
Deutsche Bank  
The Red Mansion Foundation  
Glenfiddich  
Edna Rose Weiss  
The McAulay Fund  
Liverpool John Moores



