

Royal Academy of Arts welcomes Maurice Davies as Head of Collections

The Royal Academy of Arts is pleased to announce the appointment of Maurice Davies as its new Head of Collections. He will join the RA on 5 October, taking responsibility for the Academy's Library, Archive and historic Collection of over 46,000 objects following the retirement of Nick Savage. Davies will be instrumental in the development of the new spaces being designed to display the Collections – one of the most significant elements of the Academy's transformative redevelopment plans, which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018.

Davies has had a prolific 30 year career as a museum and gallery researcher and adviser, most recently as a Partner at the Museum Consultancy where he worked with organisations ranging from the Wellcome Collection, Ashmolean Museum and British Museum to the British Council and Arts Council England. His earlier career saw him working as an Assistant Keeper of Fine Art at Manchester City Art Galleries, Editor of *Museums Journal* and Deputy Director of the Museums Association. From 2010-2014 he worked as part-time Head of Policy and Communication at the Museums Association, and for the Museum Consultancy. Davies is a Visiting Professor at Nottingham Trent University, a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Management, King's College London, a contributor at *The Art Newspaper* and has had a number of high-profile committee and advisory positions with organisations including the Department for Culture Media and Sport, Greater London Authority, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Contemporary Art Society and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation.

Tim Marlow, Artistic Director, commented: *'Maurice Davies is a man of vision, energy and experience. He is highly regarded across the museums' sector and we are relishing the opportunity of working with him at the RA. I can think of no one better equipped to build on the achievements of Nick Savage and to lead the RA Collections into the next phase of their singular and illustrious history.'*

Maurice Davies commented: *'I'm delighted to be joining the Royal Academy to help bring the Collections to a wider audience as part of the Academy's redevelopment. I'm extraordinarily lucky to be able to build on the dedicated work of Nick Savage and my new colleagues. The RA Collections deserve to be better known and I'm particularly looking forward to putting into practice some of my ideas about new ways of using collections.'*

Notes to editors

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. The RA moved to its permanent home at Burlington House, a Grade II-listed building begun in the seventeenth century, in 1869. Burlington Gardens was designed by Sir James Pennethorne (1801-1871) and opened by Queen Victoria in 1870 as the Senate House of the University of London. The RA acquired Burlington Gardens in 2001.

The RA has unveiled plans for a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Burlington House on Piccadilly and 6 Burlington Gardens will be united through designs by internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA. The redevelopment will reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public the historic treasures in its Collection, the work of its Academicians and the RA Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme.

Collection, Library and Archive

Written into the founding document of the Royal Academy of Arts is the commitment to build a collection of works of art to show the talent of British artists and provide inspiration for new generations. A requirement of all artists elected Royal Academicians is that they donate a work of art to the RA Collections (to be known as their Diploma Work).

Now numbering over 46,000 items, the Collection is a treasure trove: a cross-section of the history of the Academy spanning five centuries of British art and architecture, and the evolution of a distinctive British School of artists from the eighteenth century to the present day.

The Royal Academy of Arts Library is the oldest institutional fine arts library in the United Kingdom. The Archive forms one of the world's most significant resources for the historical study of British art since 1760. In addition to the official archive it includes the personal papers of deceased artists and the institutional archives of other organisations such as the Society of Artists.

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