In the Age of Giorgione
The Sackler Wing of Galleries
12 March – 5 June 2016

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The Royal Academy of Arts presents *In the Age of Giorgione*, a focused survey of the Venetian Renaissance during the first decade of the sixteenth century. The exhibition sheds new light on this pivotal period, which laid the foundations for the Golden Age of Venetian painting. It brings together around 50 works from public institutions and private collections across Europe and the United States, by celebrated artists such as Giorgione, Titian, Giovanni Bellini, Sebastiano del Piombo and Lorenzo Lotto, while offering an opportunity to rediscover other less well known artists such as Giovanni Cariani. The exhibition also considers the influence of Albrecht Dürer who visited Venice in 1505–7.

By the beginning of the sixteenth century Giovanni Bellini had revolutionised Venetian painting, favouring a new naturalism, yet it was the next generation, most notably Giorgione and Titian, who became the protagonists of a new style. Giorgione emerged during the first decade of the sixteenth century, greatly influencing and rapidly transforming the stylistic evolution of Venetian art. These developments were advanced by the young Titian, who would soon become the leading artist in Venice.

Little is known about Giorgione's life, however the elusive and poetic quality of his work was so powerful that, despite his early death in 1510 at around the age of 33, his legacy was profoundly felt in Venice and beyond. Giorgione worked largely for a new type of patron, that of the cultured and sophisticated connoisseur. He proposed a new, more poetic type of portraiture and created a serene bucolic world as a backdrop to both sacred and profane subjects. Today, there are only a few works that can be attributed to Giorgione with certainty. The exhibition addresses the question of attribution, taking a closer look at many of the finest works from the period.

The most important artist to emerge from Giorgione's shadow was Titian, who became the preeminent artist in Venice following Giorgione's premature death. While Giovanni Bellini remained in high demand for the commission of altarpieces, it was Titian who developed Giorgione's soft and sensuous use of colour on a larger scale. Titian's life-long artistic experiments led to a new era that has since become known as the century of Titian.

The exhibition includes major works by Giorgione and the young Titian, some of which have rarely been seen in this country. One of the highlights of the exhibition is Giorgione's *Portrait of a Man* (The San Diego Museum of Art). Known as the *Terris Portrait*, after the name of its former owner, the Scottish coal merchant Alexander Terris, it is one of only two known paintings bearing a contemporary inscription on the back of the panel identifying Giorgione as the artist. Displaying a technique similar to

Leonardo da Vinci's famed *sfumato*, in which areas of colour are blended into one another without perceptible transitions, the portrait epitomises what Giorgio Vasari praised as the 'modern manner'.

Further highlights include Titian's *Christ and the Adulteress* (Glasgow Museums), Titian's *Jacopo Pesaro Being Presented by Pope Alexander VI to Saint Peter* (Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerp) and Giorgione's *La Vecchia* (Gallerie dell'Accademia, Venice), exhibited in the UK for the very first time. Also on display are works by Giovanni Bellini, Albrecht Dürer, Lorenzo Lotto, Sebastiano del Piombo, Giovanni Cariani, Giulio Campagnola and Tullio Lombardo, among others.

In the Age of Giorgione is arranged in four sections: Portraits, Landscape, Devotional Works and Allegorical Portraits. These groupings allow visitors to explore the idealised beauty, expressive force and sensuous use of colour that became the hallmarks of Venetian Renaissance painting, whilst rediscovering one of the most enigmatic and influential artists of the period.

Organisation
The exhibition has been organised by the Royal Academy of Arts. It has been curated by Arturo Galansino, former Curator at the Royal Academy and newly appointed Director of the Palazzo Strozzi in Florence and Simone Facchinetti, Curator at the Museo Adriano Bernareggi in Bergamo, in collaboration with Per Rumberg, Curator at the Royal Academy.

Catalogue
The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with contributions from Arturo Galansino, Director of the Palazzo Strozzi, Florence and Simone Facchinetti, Curator at the Museo Adriano Bernareggi, Bergamo.

Sponsor's statement
Peter Denton, Region Manager for Maserati North Europe, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be partnering with the Royal Academy of Arts. Art has always been at the heart of the Maserati brand; one of the founding Maserati brothers, Mario, was an artist by trade and it was he who chose the iconic Trident symbol as the Maserati emblem you see on our cars today. Over 100 years since then, it's fantastic to be merging the worlds of Italian art and car design together."

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Dates and opening hours
Open to public: Saturday 12 March – Sunday 5 June 2016
                       10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)
Late night opening: Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

Admission

£11.50 full price (£10 excluding Gift Aid donation); concessions available; children under 16 and Friends of the RA go free.

Tickets

Tickets for *In the Age of Giorgione* are available daily at the RA or online at www.royalacademy.org.uk. Group bookings: Groups of 10+ are asked to book in advance. Telephone 020 7300 8027 or email adultgroups@royalacademy.org.uk.

Images

Publicity images for *In the Age of Giorgione* 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

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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 is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting and revitalising the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also 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.

For public information, please print 020 7300 8090 or www.royalacademy.org.uk

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