



## RICHARD WILSON RA PRESENTS WORK BY CELEBRATED ARTISTIC DUOS IN SUMMER EXHIBITION 2016

13 June – 21 August 2016

Main Galleries

Sponsored by



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The Royal Academy of Arts' 248th Summer Exhibition is coordinated by the renowned British sculptor and Royal Academician Richard Wilson. Comprising a range of media, the Summer Exhibition, the world's largest open submission exhibition, provides a unique platform for emerging and established artists and architects to showcase their recent work to an international audience. As this year's coordinator, Richard Wilson presents a thought-provoking Summer Exhibition, integrating work by celebrated artistic duos.

Richard Wilson has invited a diverse group of more than 20 international artistic duos, whose work he has long admired and which also reflects his interest in the making process, to exhibit throughout the Main Galleries. On display for the first time as part of the Summer Exhibition, Gilbert & George present *BEARD AWARE* (2016); a major new picture from the artist's ongoing group of work that references beards and barbed wire, and explores the ways in which both serve as devices to protect, disguise, intrigue and repel in the past, present and future. Jane & Louise Wilson have created an atmospheric photographic installation, using a number of large-scale works from the artists' seminal series *Chernobyl* (2010 – 2012); this new installation is exhibited around the main staircase leading up to the Summer Exhibition. Further highlights include a new suspended kite sculpture by Heather & Ivan Morison and a new life-size sculpture *The New Arrival* (2016) by Jake & Dinos Chapman. Participating artistic duos include Ilya & Emilia Kabakov, EVA & ADELE, Boyd & Evans, Tim Noble & Sue Webster, Langlands & Bell and Pierre et Gilles, among others.

Richard Wilson has also invited Turkish filmmaker and artist Kutluğ Ataman and Japanese artist Aono Fumiaki to present works within the Summer Exhibition. Suspended across the ceiling of Gallery 1 is Ataman's monumental, multi-image, video installation *THE PORTRAIT OF SAKIP SABANCI* (2014), which forms part of the Sabancı University Sakıp Sabancı Museum Collection, Istanbul. Previously showcased in The Arsenale at the 56th International Venice Biennale in 2015, the video installation was originally commissioned by the Sakıp Sabancı family in 2011 to mark the ten year anniversary of the passing of Turkish business leader and philanthropist Mr. Sakıp

Sabancı. It is formed of approximately 10,000 LCD panels - each one an individual portrait of one of the tens of thousands of people who crossed paths with him. The exhibition also includes a small group of poignant floor and wall-based works by Aono Fumiaki, which explore the theme of reform, healing and rebirth in reference to the Great East Japan earthquake of 2011. Through this ongoing body of work, produced by the artist since 2011, Fumiaki strives to reconcile and restore fragments of salvaged broken objects left behind by those most affected by the earthquake, transforming them into new sculptural works.

As part of the Summer Exhibition 2016, architect and sculptor Ron Arad RA has created a new site-specific installation for the RA Courtyard. *Spyre* is a 16-metre high corten steel oval cone, hiding motors, cogs, and slew-rings. Each segment of *Spyre* will move at different speeds, ensuring that the unpredictable acrobatic postures of the installation are never repeated. At the tip of *Spyre* is an eye holding a camera, the footage from which is relayed to a screen on the façade of the RA.

This year the RA received 12,000 entries, from which a committee of Royal Academicians made a selection to hang on the walls of the Main Galleries in Burlington House. 1,240 artworks are on display, the majority of which are for sale offering visitors an opportunity to purchase original artwork by high profile and up-and-coming artists. For the very first time, many editions of artworks on display at the Summer Exhibition are available to purchase online via the RA's website.

One of the founding principles of the Royal Academy of Arts was to mount an annual exhibition open to all artists of distinguished merit to finance the training of young artists in the Royal Academy Schools. The Summer Exhibition has been held every year without interruption since 1769 and continues to play a significant part in raising funds to finance the current students of the RA Schools. The RA Schools is the longest established art school in the UK and offers the only free three-year postgraduate programme in Europe.

Richard Wilson RA, coordinator of the Summer Exhibition 2016, said: "The Summer Exhibition 2016 is unpredictable, stimulating, and enjoyable with 10 startling rooms of contemporary art submitted from around the world by members, non-members and honorary invitees. Each of the rooms has been hung by a member of the committee, resulting in themes of free speculation, practice or technique. As part of this year's exhibition, I have invited a diverse group of international artistic duos to participate with new or recent work. It cannot be over emphasised that profits from the exhibition will go towards funding the postgraduate programme at the RA Schools."

#### **Notes to Editors:**

##### **The Hanging Committee**

The hanging committee for the Summer Exhibition 2016 includes Stephen Chambers RA, Louisa Hutton RA, Bill Jacklin RA, Jock McFadyen RA, David Mach RA, Cathie Pilkington RA, David Remfry RA, Ian Ritchie RA and Bill Woodrow RA. This year's architecture room is curated by Louisa Hutton RA and Ian Ritchie RA.

For biographies of the hanging committee please visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk).

## Prizes

Over £50,000 is offered in awards and prizes, including the Charles Wollaston Award, for every category of work in the Summer Exhibition.

## Sponsor's Statement

Abdallah Nauphal, chief executive officer, Insight Investment said:

"Insight Investment, lead sponsor of the Summer Exhibition for more than a decade, embraces true challenge and innovation, qualities that the curatorial stewardship of leading British sculptor and Royal Academician, Richard Wilson, brings to life. In this, its 248th year, the illustrious creative history of the Summer Exhibition continues to inspire. As we enter the second decade of our partnership, we hope you will share our delight at the triumph of this cornerstone of British culture as it offers artists a pre-eminent platform to showcase their work to an international audience."

## About Insight Investment

Insight Investment is a leading asset manager focused on designing investment solutions to meet its clients' needs. Founded in 2002, Insight's partnership approach has delivered both investment performance and impressive growth in assets under management. Insight manages £440bn (\$632bn) across liability-driven investment, fixed income & currency, global multi-asset and absolute return, global farmland and specialist equities<sup>1</sup>. The value of investments and any income from them will fluctuate and is not guaranteed (this may be partly due to exchange rate fluctuations). Investors may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

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<sup>1</sup> Assets under management are represented by the value of cash securities and other economic exposure managed for clients. The assets under management figure represents the combined assets under management of Insight Investment Management (Global) Limited, Pareto Investment Management Limited, Insight Investment Funds Management Limited, Cutwater Investor Services Corporation and Cutwater Asset Management Corporation (Cutwater Asset Management). CISC and CAMC are owned by BNY Mellon and operated by Insight. Data as of 31 March 2016.

## Dates and Opening Hours

Open to public:	Monday 13 June – Sunday 21 August 2016 10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)
Late night opening:	Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm) Saturdays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

## Admission

Admission prices include the List of Works giving details on every exhibit in the show.

Adult ticket £13.50 (£12 excluding Gift Aid donation); concessions available; under 16s go free. Friends of the RA go free.

## Tickets

Tickets are available daily at the RA or by visiting [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://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](mailto:adultgroups@royalacademy.org.uk).

## **Images**

Publicity images for the Summer Exhibition 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 of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

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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 and [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 Monique Kent at the RA Press Office on 020 7300 5615 or [press.office@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:press.office@royalacademy.org.uk)**