



David Hockney RA: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-life

The Sackler Wing of Galleries

2 July – 2 October 2016

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David Hockney RA: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-life is an intimate exhibition of recent portraits by the Royal Academician David Hockney, revisiting the genre that has played such a major part across his long career. Vibrant, observant and full of life, these paintings, which Hockney considers as one body of work, have all been executed over the last two and a half years in the artist's Los Angeles studio.

The exhibition offers an insight into the artist's life in Los Angeles, his connections to the art world and the people who have crossed his path over the last few years. Hockney's subjects – all of whom were invited by the artist to sit for him – include friends, family, acquaintances and staff. John Baldessari, Celia Birtwell, Dagny Corcoran, Larry Gagosian, Frank Gehry, Barry Humphries, David Juda and Jacob Rothschild are all represented as well as Hockney's siblings, John and Margaret.

Each portrait has been created within the specific time frame of three days, which Hockney describes as 'a 20 hour exposure'. The portraits are painted on the same size canvas (121.9 x 91.4 cm) with each of the subjects seated in the same chair against a neutral background. The portraits provide a remarkable insight into the personality of the sitters, in addition to exploring Hockney's own development working in the medium of acrylic. The works are hung chronologically within the Sackler Galleries to emphasise this development. Hockney set himself a considerable challenge to complete this large body of work. His deep interest in portraiture and its changing role in the history of art are evident as he challenges our perceptions of the value of portraiture in the 21st century.

Born in Bradford in 1937, David Hockney attended Bradford School of Art before studying at the Royal College of Art from 1957 to 1962. Hockney's reputation was established early, with his work featuring in the *Young Contemporaries* exhibition in London, 1960; an exhibition seen as marking the arrival of British Pop Art. He first visited Los Angeles in 1964, settling there in 1979 where he has since produced a large body of work over many decades. In 2012, *David Hockney RA: A Bigger Picture*, was held in the main galleries of the Royal Academy. Showcasing vivid landscapes of the Yorkshire countryside, this vast show attracted over 600,000 visitors, making it one of the most successful exhibitions in the RA's history. The exhibition subsequently travelled to the Guggenheim Bilbao and the Museum Ludwig, Cologne. David Hockney was elected a Royal Academician in 1991 and appointed member of the Order of Merit in 2012.

Exhibition tickets for *David Hockney RA: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-life* must be pre-booked.

Organisation

David Hockney RA: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-life has been organised by the Royal Academy of Arts, London. The exhibition is curated by Edith Devaney, Curator of Contemporary Projects at the Royal Academy of Arts, in close collaboration with the artist.

Accompanying Book: *David Hockney: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-life*

The exhibition is accompanied by a lavishly illustrated book, *David Hockney: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-life*, published by the Royal Academy of Arts. The book features incisive text exploring Hockney's work in portraiture by Tim Barringer, Paul Mellon Professor of the History of Art at Yale University and Edith Devaney, Curator of Contemporary Projects at the Royal Academy of Arts, interviews the artist. Photographs revealing intermediate stages of several paintings, from first to last mark, give the reader a unique insight into Hockney's working method.

Price: £30.00 hardback.

Sponsor's Statement

"David Hockney is considered to be one of the most influential British artists of the 20th century and having partnered with the Royal Academy since 1997, we are proud to be the exclusive sponsor of the *David Hockney RA: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-life* exhibition. Cazenove Capital and the Royal Academy each have long and successful heritages. We respect and admire the innovation that lies at the heart of the Royal Academy."

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Dates and Opening Hours

Open to public:	Saturday 2 July – Sunday 2 October 2016 10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)
Late night opening:	Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

For details of further extended opening hours go to: www.royalacademy.org.uk

Admission

£11.50 full price (£10 without Gift Aid donation); concessions available; children under 16 and Friends of the RA go free.

Tickets

Tickets for *David Hockney RA: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-life* must be pre-booked. Tickets are available online at www.royalacademy.org.uk or telephone 020 7300 8090.

Images

Publicity images for *David Hockney RA: 82 Portraits and 1 Still-life* 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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#HockneyPortraits

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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 more information on the RA visit www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video

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

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