

# RA

Royal Academy Schools  
**Prospectus 2016/17**



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 longest established art school in Britain, is highly regarded throughout the world as a centre of excellence. It is a living 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 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. The programme is a full-time course, with lectures, group critiques, tutorials and artist talks given each week. Students attend and contribute to these activities, alongside the production of studio work.

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 discussion 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 in-depth and sustained discussion with a variety of lecturers and visiting artists.

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 Royal Academy Schools has been an integral part of the Royal Academy of Arts since its foundation in 1768. A key principle of the Schools is that our programme is free of charge to any applicant offered a place.

Additional financial support is available through modest bursaries and contributions to the cost of some materials. This support does not fully cover the cost of living and studying in London and most students undertake part-time work outside of their commitments to the course.



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## 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. You will 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, group critiques and visiting artists forms the structure of the working week and exposes you to new voices and methodologies.

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## 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

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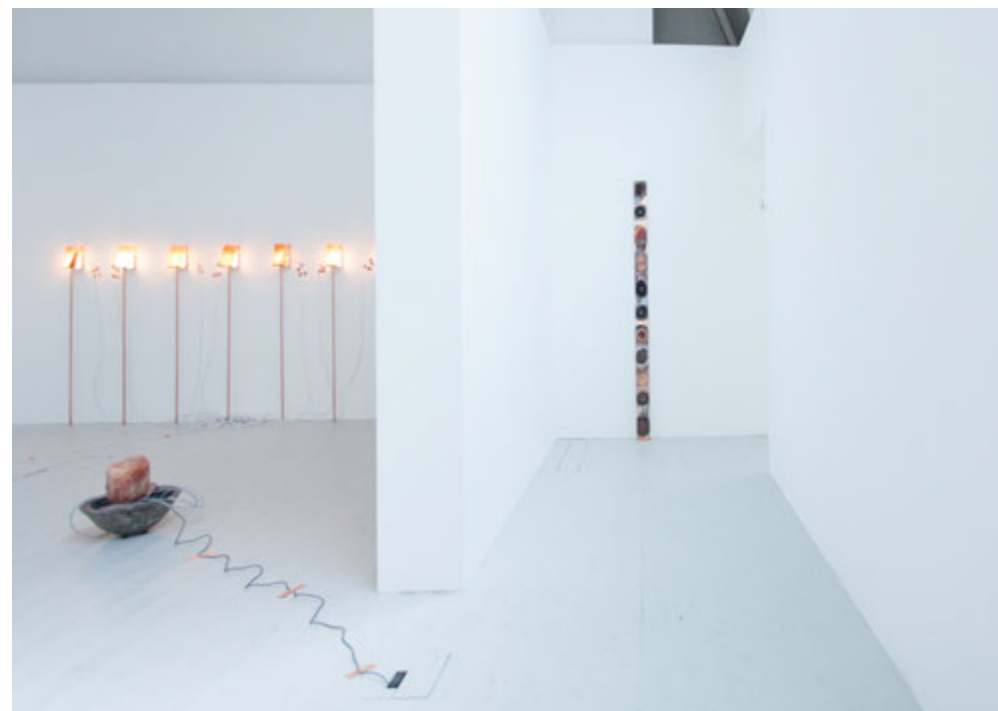
## Tutorials

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

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## Last years visiting artists

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Oreet Ashery         | Harold Offeh         |
| Anna Barham          | Sally O'Reilly       |
| Becky Beasley        | Beatriz Olabarrieta  |
| Lucy Beech           | Saskia Olde Wolbers  |
| Juan Bolivar         | Hardeep Pandhal      |
| Nicholas Byrne       | Amalia Pica          |
| Maurice Carlin       | Cathie Pilkington RA |
| Marion Coutts        | Fiona Rae RA         |
| Sacha Craddock       | Andreas Reiter Raabe |
| Fiona Crisp          | Rachel Reupke        |
| Alexandre da Cunha   | Karin Ruggaber       |
| Peter Davies         | Neil Rumming         |
| Chantal Faust        | Lindsay Seers        |
| Alex Frost           | Samara Scott         |
| Ana Genoves          | Tai Shani            |
| Beatrice Gibson      | Bridget Smith        |
| Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe | Catherine Story      |
| David Gryn           | Shaan Syed           |
| Lucy Gunning         | Caragh Thuring       |
| Anthea Hamilton      | Sanja Todorovic      |
| Anne Hardy           | Cara Tolmie          |
| Tim Head             | Lee Trimming         |
| Justin Hibbs         | Stuart Tulloch       |
| Vanessa Jackson RA   | Mandy Ure            |
| Chantal Joffe RA     | Gavin Wade           |
| Gareth Jones         | Clarrie Wallis       |
| Michael Landy RA     | Dan Walwin           |
| Liane Lang           | Martin Westwood      |
| John Lawrence        | Lucy Williams        |
| Lisa Milroy RA       | Matt Williams        |
| Milika Muritu        | Clare Woods          |
| Hayley Newman        |                      |







## 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:

Dickie Beau  
 Birgit Brenner  
 Varda Caivano  
 Alice Channer  
 Celine Condorelli  
 Jason Dodge  
 Sean Edwards  
 Emma Hart  
 Andy Holden  
 Clara Jo  
 Alan Kane  
 Janice Kerbel  
 Pil and Galia Kollektiv  
 Liliane Lijn  
 Christina Mackie  
 Rachel Maclean  
 David Musgrave  
 Uriel Orlow  
 Lari Pittman  
 James Richards  
 Daniel Sinsel  
 John Smith  
 Christiana Soulou  
 Georgina Starr  
 Susan Steinberg  
 Bedwyr Williams

## 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:

Jeremy Akerman  
 Assemble  
 Karl Baker  
 Prof. Roberto Cippolla  
 Dr. Roger Cook  
 Mathieu Copeland  
 Maria Fusco  
 Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe  
 Chris Kraus  
 Mark Leckey  
 Prof. Esther Leslie  
 Anna McNay  
 Prof. Gloria Moss  
 Prof. Denise Riley  
 Prof. Irit Rogoff  
 Dr. Daniel Rubenstein  
 Prof. Stella Sanford  
 Prof. Marina Warner  
 Susannah Worth

## 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.



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## 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.

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## Texts

The text component of the programme is an opportunity to explore and research ideas that arise in the studio in written form.

A short written text, completed during the first year of the programme, aims to address subjects and ideas that inform your practice.

In the second year, students receive individual tutorials and feedback sessions to assist in the production of a longer text. This work is completed during the summer period prior to the third year of the programme.

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## 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)

### 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*.




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## 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.

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## Events

We hold a number of public events each year including lectures and panel discussions. These have included Olafur Eliasson Hon RA, Julia Wachtel, Lynne Herschmann-Leeson, Frank Stella Hon RA, Georg Baselitz Hon RA, Tracey Emin RA in conversation with Matthew Collings, Thomas Hirschhorn, 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 also host 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](https://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 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.

### Epson 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 Space

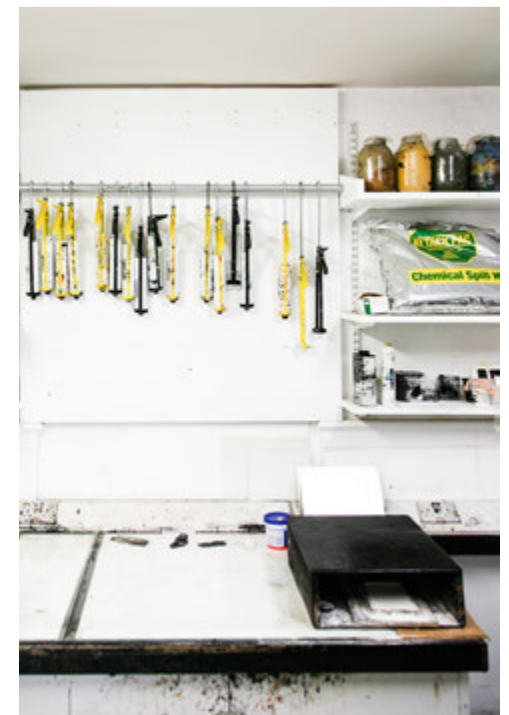
Provided short-term to facilitate work that may need more room or focus outside of the open-plan studio spaces.

### IT Suite

Printing and photocopying facilities are available. The Schools are Wi-Fi networked 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–10pm

Saturday, 9am–6pm

Sunday, 9am–6pm

### Summer Term

Monday to Friday, 8am–10pm

Saturday, 9am–6pm

Sunday, 9am–6pm

### Holidays

Monday to Friday, 9am–6pm

We aim to keep the studios open whenever possible.

Left: Second year student, Josie Baker-Heaslip, installing her work for Premiums Interim Projects 2016. Below: Students in the Schools studios with Eileen Cooper RA.





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## 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

### Photography Tutor

Maciej Urbanek

### Workshop Manager

Richard Elliott

### Workshop Assistant

Peter Donaldson

James Irwin

Lyndsey Macleod

### Programme & Alumni Relations Manager

David Cooper

### RA Schools Administrator

Joanna Thomas

### EA to the Keeper & Curator

Sally Parekh

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## Professors

### Professor of Architecture

Piers Gough RA

### Eranda Professor of Drawing

David Remfry RA

### Professor of Painting

Chantal Joffe RA

### Professor of Perspective

Humphrey Ocean RA

### Professor of Sculpture

Cathie Pilkington RA

### Professor of Anatomy

Gerald Libby

### Professor of Chemistry

Tim Green

### Professor of Computer Vision

Roberto Cipolla

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## Visiting Professors

Helen Sear

Jan Verwoert

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## Resident in Critical Practice

Martin Westwood



Painting by Rian Coughlan, RA Schools Show 2016

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## 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.

It is important to use the sustained time at the RA Schools to concentrate on time spent in the studio and other aspects of the programme. Occasionally, you may have opportunities to take part in exhibitions outside of the RA Schools, and you are requested to discuss any such opportunities in advance with the Curator and Keeper. We must emphasise the necessary pre-eminence of the commitment to the requirements of the RA Schools programme over other opportunities and 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.**

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## 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.

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### 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.

Applications to the Royal Academy Schools programme should demonstrate a studio practice that has the potential for further development over a sustained three year period. Candidates should be looking for evolution in their work, and that their practice is not fixed. It is important that applicants have the 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.

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## Key Dates

### Open Days

Prospective applicants are invited to attend one of our Open Days. Please note that places are limited and that booking is required. To reserve your place, visit the How To Apply section of our website [royalacademy.org.uk/raschools](http://royalacademy.org.uk/raschools)

Sessions start at 2pm and last for approximately 1 hour, including a brief tour of some of our studios and workshops as well as a Q&A session.

### Open Days 2016

12 October | 2.15pm

19 October | 2.15pm

26 October | 2.15pm

9 November | 2.15pm

### Application Submission Period

20 June – 4 December 2016

### Deadline for initial applications for international candidates only

30 October 2016

### Deadline for all Applications

4 December 11.59pm GMT

### Shortlisted Applicants Notified

Late January 2017

### Interviews

March 2017

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## 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 Reference
- 5 Media / Portfolio
- 6 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)

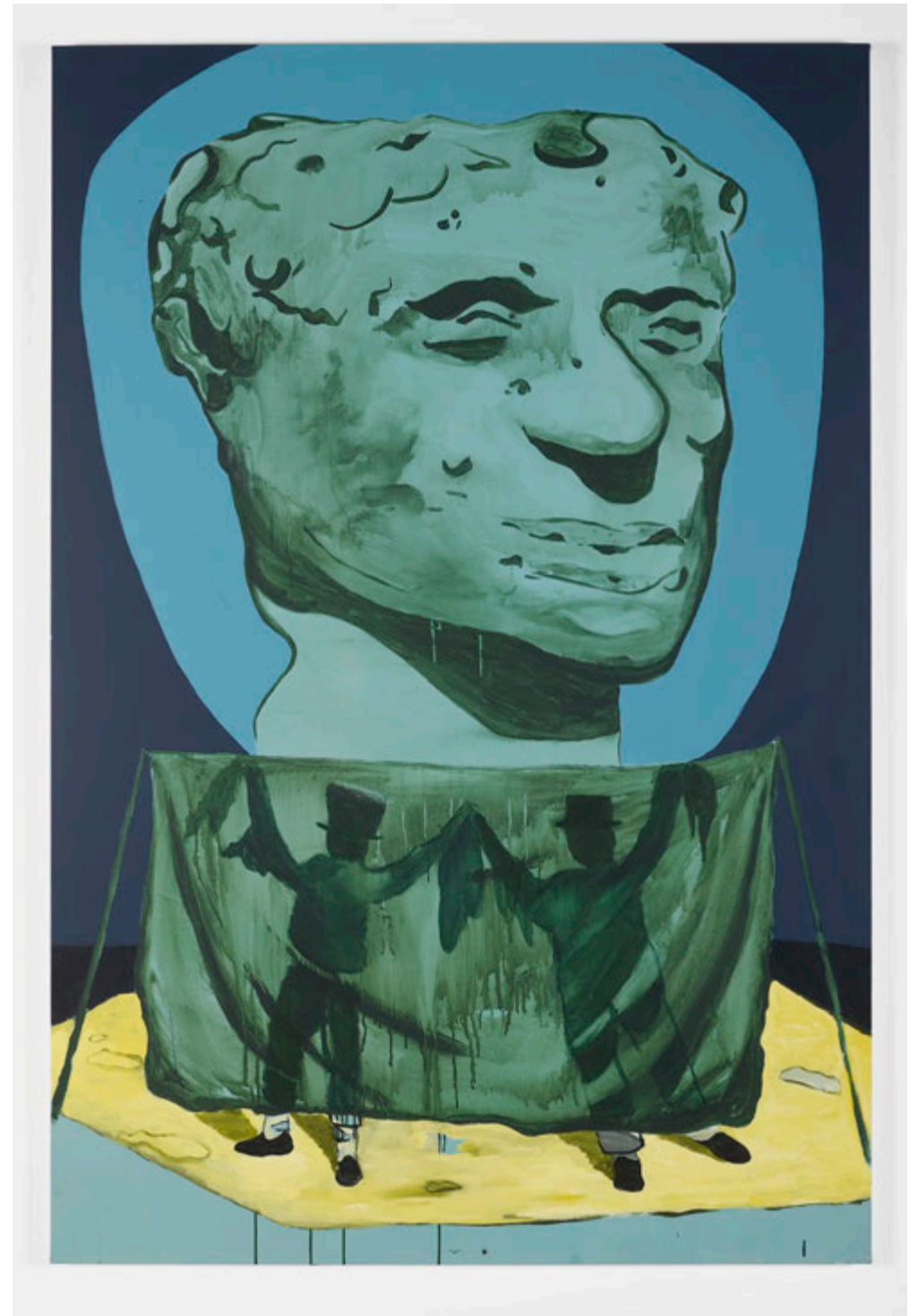
If you need technical assistance with your online application, please visit our searchable support pages or email [support@slideroom.com](mailto:support@slideroom.com)

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**.

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### 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: Work by Richie Moment, Premiums Interim Projects 2016  
Below: Performance work by Fani Parali, Premiums Interim Projects 2016

## Interviews

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

If you are shortlisted for interview you will be informed in January/February 2017.

Interviews will take place in March 2017.

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.



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## 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/>

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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.

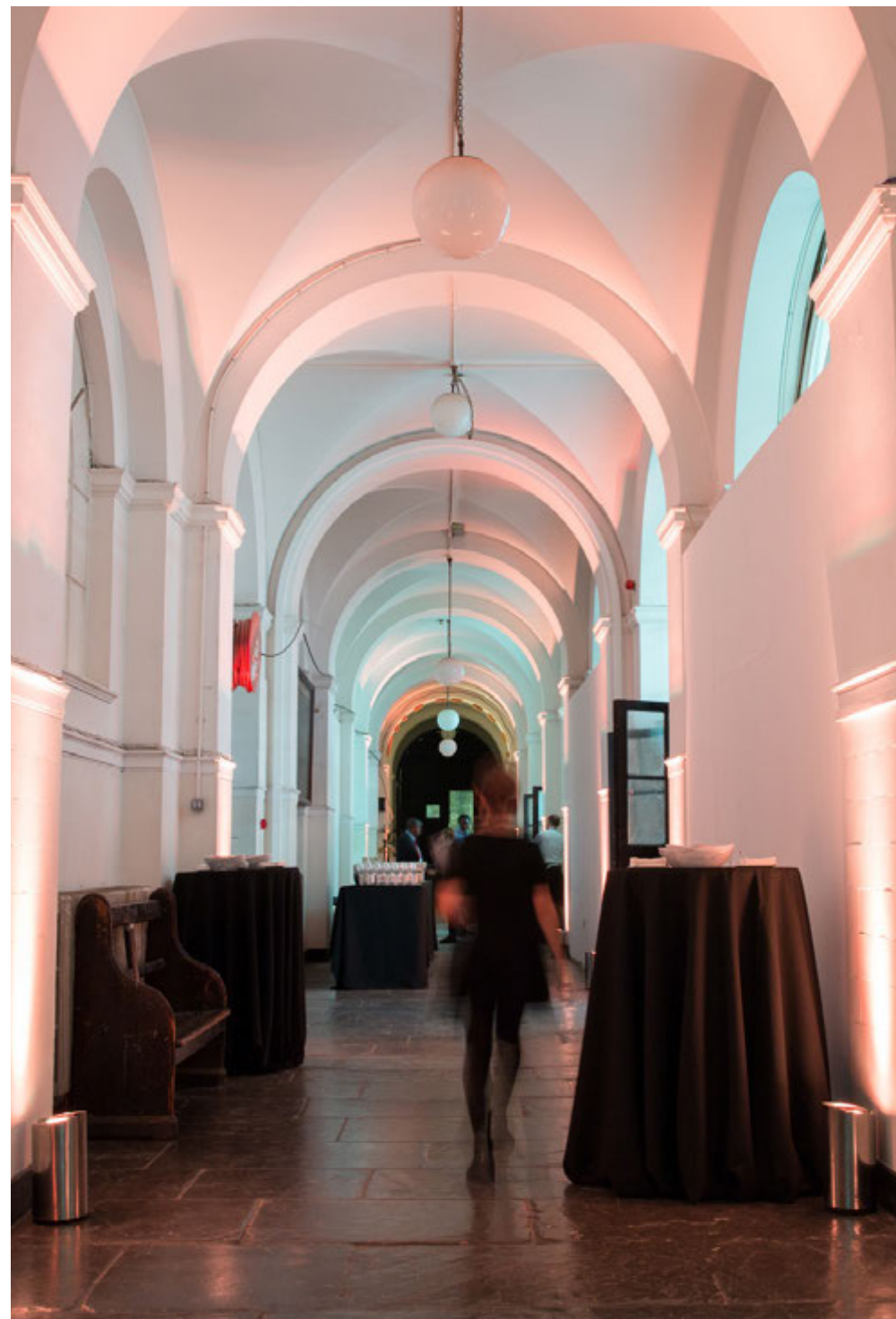
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To begin your Initial Application please visit [raschools.slideroom.org.uk](http://raschools.slideroom.org.uk)

The deadline for initial applications for international candidates is 30 October 2016.

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.









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And others who wish to remain anonymous.

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