

**AT HOME**

**THE JOHN MADEJSKI FINE ROOMS**

**PORTRAITS OF ARTISTS IN THE ROYAL ACADEMY COLLECTION**

**Until 25 November 2007**

A series of new displays have been mounted in the John Madejski Fine Rooms at the Royal Academy of Arts. Four of the Fine Rooms have been re-hung with paintings and sculpture which explore the rich variety of representations of artists in the Academy's own collection. The display contains highlights from the collection of artists' portraits, built up since the Academy's foundation in 1768 and coincides with the major Spring exhibition **Citizen and Kings: Portraits in the Age of Revolution, 1760-1830**.

On show are painted and sculpted portraits ranging from C. R. Leslie's tiny, intimate picture of his friend John Constable to grand formal images such as Giuseppe Ceracchi's bust of Sir Joshua Reynolds and George Frederic Watts's portrait of Lord Leighton. Also on view will be Charles West Cope's magnificent Victorian group, *The Council of the Royal Academy*, which depicts eminent Royal Academicians selecting the works for the Summer Exhibition of 1875. Other works on display include Thomas Gainsborough and John Bellamy's revealing self-portraits, Reynolds's depiction of his theatrically dressed studio assistant Giuseppe Marchi and an early portrait of Laura Knight by her husband-to-be, Harold Knight.

The works in the Fine Rooms offer a fascinating glimpse of artists' public and private lives, aspirations and achievements, and hold a mirror up to the inner life of the Academy itself as a home-from-home for British artists over almost 250 years.

From 26 January until 27 May, the **Tennant Room** will display a selection of drawings, prints and photographs. These works will be a mix of formal and informal, ranging from images intended to promote the standing of the Academy and its members to caricatures made at official functions. Works exhibited will include profile drawings by George Dance of early Academicians, romantic photographs by David Wilkie Wynfield, and a haunting self-portrait by Peter Coker. Busts will also be exhibited including Louis-François Roubiliac's vivid sculpture of Joseph Wilton and Edward Onslow Ford's bust of Sir J. E. Millais, made during the latter's brief presidency of the Academy, shortly before his death.

**EIGHTEEN FROM EIGHTY  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES HUNKIN**

**26 January – 18 March 2007**

**NORMAN SHAW STAIRCASE**

Complementing the survey of artists' portraits in the Fine Rooms, a display of 18 black and white photographs of Royal Academicians taken over the last ten years by James Hunkin (b.1958) will be exhibited in the Norman Shaw Staircase. Hunkin uses natural light and the minimum of equipment to create an image that is 'engaging and true to the sitter'.

**DATES**

The John Madejski Fine Rooms	23 December 2006 – 25 November 2007
The Tennant Room	26 January – 27 May 2007
Norman Shaw Staircase	26 January – 18 March 2007

**Opening hours:**

The John Madejski Fine Rooms including the Tennant Room	1pm-4.30pm Tuesday to Friday 10am-6pm Saturday and Sunday Closed Monday
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Norman Shaw Staircase	10am-6pm and until 10pm on Friday
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**ADMISSION**

Admission to **At Home: Portraits of Artists in the Royal Academy Collection** in the John Madejski Fine Rooms and the Norman Shaw Staircase is free.

For further press information please contact Johanna Bennett on tel: 020 7300 5614, fax: 020 7300 8032 or [press.office@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:press.office@royalacademy.org.uk)

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