

**CITIZENS AND KINGS**

**MAIN GALLERIES**

**PORTRAITS IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTION, 1760 - 1830**

Generously supported by the Benjamin West Patrons Group

3 February - 20 April 2007

**Citizens and Kings: Portraits in the Age of Revolution, 1760 – 1830** offers an in-depth view, through sculpted and painted portraits, of an era characterised by sweeping political and social changes. The years 1760 - 1830 saw dramatic transformations in the world order as new ideas and wealth vied with the old order of absolute monarchies. The exhibition consists of 145 works drawn from some of the finest collections worldwide, depicting not only kings and queens but also the new revolutionary heroes and rising bourgeoisie, Enlightenment thinkers, writers and artists. Each work has been carefully considered for the historical significance of the sitter and its aesthetic quality as well as the innovation in presentation adopted by the artist. No exhibition has previously explored the essential role of the portrait in the process of commemoration and immortalisation during this tumultuous period, through works by such great masters as Reynolds, David, Ingres, Goya, Lawrence, Delacroix, Canova and Thorvaldsen.

**Citizens and Kings** describes this volatile period through portraits of historically significant sitters made by pioneering European and American artists. The international remit of the exhibition is to demonstrate national, idiosyncratic styles of portraiture, alongside approaches that transcended geographical boundaries. Original to this exhibition is the exploration of the integration of painting and sculpture, which demonstrates the dialogue between these two art forms and explores the similarities of representation, and areas of complementarity and difference.

The period 1760–1830 was an era in which shifts in social ideals and the emergence of new philosophical premises, most importantly, the autonomy of the individual, were ushered in by the Age of Enlightenment. Philosophers such as Hume, Rousseau and Voltaire were all instrumental in changing the face of society. Radical social shifts brought about by the Enlightenment and the revolutions of this period resulted in changes in the role and style of portraiture.

**Citizens and Kings** is divided into eleven sections, based on theme and portrait type. The first sub-theme of the exhibition presents the formal and official portraits, opening with grand portraits of rulers adorned in coronation robes, thus establishing through attributes their royal

authority. Ensuing sections display portraits of statesmen, such as Benjamin Franklin, military men, and aristocrats, such as the Countess of Bute and Madame d'Orvilliers. The evolving nature of the cultural world is underpinned through portraits of notable natural philosophers such as Hutton, as well as patrons, art collectors, commissioners of architecture and bibliophiles. Interplay and dialogue between sculpture and painting is explored in the section looking at self-portraits and portraits of artists, and features work by Reynolds, Bendz, Thorvaldsen, Pigalle and Messerschmidt.

The next sub-theme addresses specific portrait types, starting with works by Houdon, Zoffany and Goya depicting the family and children. The examination of another portrait type, that of the revival of classical prototypes, and a taste for the Antique, is illustrated with works by Canova and Nollekens. The penultimate sections explore the allegorical portrait and figures in the landscape. The final room examines transformations in portraiture brought about by the aftermath of the fall of Napoleon, and the arrival of Romanticism and Realism.

## **ORGANISATION**

The exhibition is organised by the Réunion des Musées Nationaux and the Musée du Louvre, Paris, the Royal Academy of Arts, London, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation, New York. The exhibition is curated by the late Robert Rosenblum, Professor of Art History at New York University and Stephen and Nan Swid Curator of Twentieth-Century Art at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; MaryAnne Stevens, Senior Curator and Acting Secretary of the Royal Academy of Arts; Guilhem Scherf, Senior Curator of 18<sup>th</sup> Century Sculpture, and Sébastien Allard, Curator of Paintings, at the Musée du Louvre.

## **MEDIA PARTNER**

### **The Daily Telegraph**

## **CATALOGUE**

A richly illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition and provides an important and innovative synthesis of the portrait in this period.

## **EXHIBITION TOUR**

Grand Palais, Paris

2 October 2006 – 9 January 2007

Royal Academy of Arts, London

3 February - 20 April 2007

## **DATES**

Press View

Tuesday 30 January 2007, 10am – 2pm

Open to public:

Saturday 3 February – Friday 20 April 2007

10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)

Late night openings: Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

### **ADMISSION**

£10 full price; £8 Registered Disabled and 60 + years; £7 NUS / ISIC cardholders; £3 12–18 years and Income Support; £2 8–11 years; 7 and under free.

### **TICKETS**

Tickets are available daily at the RA. To book tickets in advance please tel: 0870 848 8484 or visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk/citizensandkings](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/citizensandkings). Groups of 10 or more are asked to book in advance; please tel: 020 7300 8027, fax: 020 7300 8084 or email: [groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk)

### **IMAGES**

Publicity images for Citizens and Kings can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at [www.papicselect.com](http://www.papicselect.com) and once registered go to the Royal Academy of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

To book tickets in advance please visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk/citizensandkings](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/citizensandkings) or call 0870 848 8484

For further press information, please contact Catherine Mason on tel. 020 7300 5615, fax 020 7300 8032, or email [press.office@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:press.office@royalacademy.org.uk)

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