

DRIVEN TO DRAW: TWENTIETH-CENTURY DRAWINGS AND SKETCHBOOKS FROM THE ROYAL ACADEMY'S COLLECTION

TENNANT GALLERY

3 November 2011 – 12 February 2012

This November a new exhibition in the Tennant Gallery reveals the richness of the Academy's rarely seen holdings of twentieth-century drawings and sketchbooks. Although drawing is a natural human activity, only in the twentieth century have artists drawn more from inner compulsion than out of practical necessity. By including a wide range of styles, techniques and modes of draughtsmanship found in works by both Royal Academicians and students alike – everything from doodles to diploma works – the exhibition aims to capture the magic of drawing done for its own sake.

Works in the exhibition include a characteristically direct street scene by L.S. Lowry RA and an atmospheric view of an Essex church by Edward Bawden RA. Frank Brangwyn RA's powerful, fleshy likeness of his mentor, A. H. Mackmurdo, is displayed alongside a delicate pencil portrait by Michael Landy RA of the former RA Exhibitions Secretary Sir Norman Rosenthal. Works by John Skeaping RA and John Bratby RA reveal the very different techniques these artists used to depict animals: Skeaping's precisely portrayed racehorse contrasting with a scruffily characterful collie dog by Bratby. Life drawings on show include a meticulous student exam drawing from 1917 by Winifred Broughton Edge and a masterly 1996 exploration of form by the sculptor Bryan Kneale RA. The display will also reveal the ways in which people sketch to think, observe, explore and relax, including a diverse array of examples by artists such as George Clausen RA, Gilbert Ledward RA, Laura Knight RA and Ivor Abrahams RA.

Also on show is a ten-minute film, made by researcher Elisa Alaluusua, in which the sculptor Michael Sandle RA talks about his sketchbooks.

ABOUT THE ROYAL ACADEMY COLLECTIONS

The Royal Academy Collections focus on British art and artists and predominantly ranges from the eighteenth century to the present day. Highlights include major works by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Turner, Constable, Alma-Tadema, Flaxman, Millais, Leighton, Waterhouse, Sargent, Spencer and Hockney. The Collections include paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, architectural designs, historic books, archives, historic photographs and plaster casts.

The RA's Collections, Library and Archives have recently been awarded Designated status by Arts Council England. The Designation Scheme identifies the pre-eminent collections of national and international importance held in England's non-national museums, libraries and archives, based on their quality and significance.

This achievement comes on top of a successful seven-year programme to catalogue and digitise the RA's Collections and publish them online at www.racollection.org.uk. The programme of Tennant Gallery exhibitions provides a window onto the Collections and the history of the Royal Academy and its members, the Royal Academicians, past and present.



TENNANT GALLERY DATES AND OPENING HOURS:

Open to public: 3 November 2011 – 12 February 2012
Tennant Gallery Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 10 am – 6pm
(Closed Mondays)

ADMISSION

Complimentary entry with a valid Royal Academy exhibition ticket. £3 without. RA Friends go free.

EVENTS

Curator's Talks

Tuesday 6 December 2011

Tuesday 7 February 2012

Introductions to the exhibition by the curator.

3.30 pm in the Tennant Gallery.

Events are free with an exhibition ticket. Please visit the RA website for further details.

IMAGES

Publicity images for **Driven to Draw** in the Tennant Gallery 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 of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

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Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD**

**For further press information, please contact the Royal Academy Press Office on tel: 020 7300 5615,
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