

DAVID A BIGGER PICTURE HOCKNEY RA

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Press Release

DAVID HOCKNEY RA: A BIGGER PICTURE

MAIN GALLERIES

21 January 2012 - 9 April 2012

The Royal Academy of Arts presents the first major exhibition in the UK to showcase David Hockney's landscape work. Vivid paintings inspired by the Yorkshire countryside, many exhibited here for the first time, are shown alongside related drawings and digital video. Over 150 works are on display, the majority of which have been created in the last eight years. The exhibition also includes a selection of works dating as far back as 1956, which places the recent work in the context of Hockney's extended exploration of and fascination with landscape. The exhibition takes the visitor on a journey through Hockney's view of the world.

Initially, the exhibition addresses the various approaches that Hockney has taken towards the depiction of landscape throughout his career. Past works include *Rocky Mountains and Tired Indians*, 1965 (The National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh), *Garrowby Hill*, 1998 (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston) and *A Closer Grand Canyon*, 1998 (Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek). Hockney's exploration of the depiction of space is traced from work dating to his time as a student, through his photocollages of the 1980s and the *Grand Canyon* paintings of the late 1990s, to the recent paintings of East Yorkshire, frequently made *en plein air*.

The exhibition reveals the artist's emotional engagement with the landscape he knew in his youth, as, in a series of galleries each dedicated to a particular motif, he examines daily variations in light and weather conditions and the cycles of growth and decay as the seasons change. Since undertaking this exhibition in 2007, Hockney's intense observation of his surroundings has become manifested in a variety of media. Highlights include three groups of new work made specifically for this exhibition.

Firstly, a series of paintings inspired by Claude Lorrain's painting *The Sermon on the Mount*, 1656 (The Frick Collection, New York) in which Hockney explores its unusual treatment of space, culminating in the monumental painting: *A Bigger Message*, 2010. Secondly, new digital videos featuring motifs familiar from Hockney's paintings are displayed on multiple screens; filmed

simultaneously using nine and eighteen cameras, they provide a spellbinding visual experience. Hockney's in-depth engagement with the works of the Old Masters and the historical use of optical aids was made clear in his book *Secret Knowledge* (2001). Hockney too has always embraced new technologies for the purposes of image making, most recently the iPad.

The exhibition culminates in the largest of the Royal Academy's galleries, with the immersive work *The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate, East Yorkshire in 2011 (twenty eleven)*. Hockney's glorious homage to nature is dominated by a painting on 32 canvases, surrounded by over fifty large-scale iPad drawings printed on paper, which chronicle the advancing season in breathtaking detail. Hockney has found in landscape the ultimate subject for 'A Bigger Picture'.

Born in Bradford in 1937, David Hockney attended Bradford School of Art before studying at the Royal College of Art from 1959 to 1962. Hockney's stellar reputation was established while he was still a student; his work was featured in several of the annual *Young Contemporaries* exhibitions, one of which heralded the birth of British Pop Art. He visited Los Angeles in 1964 and settled there soon after. He is closely associated with southern California and has produced a large body of work there over many decades. David Hockney was elected a Royal Academician in 1991. David Hockney has recently been appointed a member of the Order of Merit by the Queen.

ORGANISATION

David Hockney RA: A Bigger Picture has been organised by the Royal Academy of Arts, London in collaboration with the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao and the Museum Ludwig, Cologne. The exhibition has been curated by the independent curator Marco Livingstone and Edith Devaney, the Royal Academy of Arts.

EXHIBITION TOUR

Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao: 14 May – 30 September, 2012

Museum Ludwig, Cologne: 29 October, 2012 – 4 February, 2013

CATALOGUE

The exhibition is accompanied by a sumptuous fully illustrated catalogue. This includes a number of essays, with an introduction by Marco Livingstone exploring the artist's engagement with landscape painting in the context of Hockney's illustrious career. Writers as notable as Margaret Drabble, Tim Barringer, Martin Gayford, Xavier Salomon and David Hockney himself address the artist's place in the landscape tradition, his recent video works and his delight in new technologies.

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT

Ludovic de Montille, Chairman of the BNP Paribas Group in the UK said: "David Hockney is one of Britain's most influential contemporary artists and this important exhibition of landscape work showcases his evolution and his renewed creativity. BNP Paribas, the bank for a changing world, has selected creativity as one of its four core values and as such, is particularly proud to support this exciting and vibrant exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts - *David Hockney RA: A Bigger Picture.*"

ABOUT BNP PARIBAS

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ABOUT WELCOME TO YORKSHIRE

Welcome to Yorkshire is the Destination Management Organisation (DMO) for Yorkshire, tasked with growing the visitor economy of the county and works with DMO, Visit Hull and East Yorkshire (VHEY), to promote East Yorkshire, the current home of David Hockney and the inspiration for most of the works in *David Hockney RA: A Bigger Picture*. Hockney's relationship with Yorkshire embraces his birthplace in Bradford, the Yorkshire Wolds, the inspiration for much of his current work and his present home in Bridlington on the Yorkshire Coast.

DATES

Open to public: Saturday 21 January – Monday 9 April 2012
10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)
Late night opening: Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

ADMISSION

£14 full price; £13 registered disabled and 60 + years; £9 NUS / ISIC cardholders; £4 12–18 years and Income Support; £3 8–11 years; 7 and under free. RA Friends go free.

TICKETS

Tickets for *David Hockney RA: A Bigger Picture* are available daily at the RA. To book tickets in advance please tel: 0844 209 0051 or visit www.royalacademy.org.uk. Groups of 10 or more are asked to book in advance; please telephone 020 7300 8027, fax: 020 7300 8084 or email: groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk

IMAGES

Publicity images for *David Hockney RA: A Bigger Picture* 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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