

## LITHORRGRAPHY: CHRIS ORR RA AND THE ART OF CHEMICAL PRINTING

### Tennant Gallery

23 February – 20 May 2012



A new exhibition in the Tennant Gallery at the Royal Academy explores the method and madness featured in the lithographs of Chris Orr RA. Orr is one of Britain's foremost artist-printmakers, renowned for his technical mastery, joyfully anarchic subject matter and thought provoking content. The medium of lithography is a process that depends on the chemical antipathy of grease and water to create a printed image and this exhibition will contain more than twenty prints, ranging in date from 1974 to 2011. All prints in the exhibition have been generously presented to the Royal Academy Collection by the artist.

Highlights will include the early boisterous pub scene *Inside Moonies* (1974), the *Semi-antic* series of lithographs inspired by children's books (2001), panoramic cityscapes *Shanghai Seebacoscope* (2006) and *Nagasaki Mon Amour* (2007), and the film-inspired *Companions in the Canyon* and *Film Noir – in Colour* (both 2010). New and previously un-exhibited works on view will include *Full Steam Ahead* and *Welcome to the Atomic Age* (both 2011). Besides presenting Chris Orr's distinctive take on the absurdities of everyday life and human nature, the exhibition also asks serious questions: can a medium itself develop creativity? Can a process be a moment of theatre as well as a vehicle for expression?

Also on view will be a film made in 2011, especially for this exhibition, showing Chris Orr at work on a new lithograph and talking about his art. The film offers fascinating insights into the process of lithography and the work of this unique artist.

Chris Orr's work will also be showing at The London Original Print Fair, 20 – 22 April 2012.

Chris Orr was born in London in 1943. He studied at Ravensbourne College of Art (1959-63), Hornsey College of Art (1963-64) and the Royal College of Art (1964-67). He has taught at Cardiff College of Art, Central St Martins, London, and at the Royal College of Art, London, where he was Professor of Printmaking from 1998 to 2008. He has had many solo shows in the UK and internationally and his work is held in public collections including the Arts Council, British Museum, Tate and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Orr was elected a Royal Academician in 1995 and awarded an MBE in 2008. He lives and works in London.

## EVENTS

### Artist's Talks

Saturday 10 March 2012

As part of **Saturday Social**, a day of activities to enjoy as a family at the Royal Academy, Chris Orr discusses his work, inspirations and techniques. A Q&A session will follow the talk.

*2.30 pm in the Reynolds Room*

*Free entry but spaces are limited so please book in advance at*

*[www.royalacademy.org.uk/saturdaysocial](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/saturdaysocial)*

Friday 20 April 2012

Chris Orr leads an informal introduction to the exhibition

*2 pm in the Tennant Gallery; Free with an exhibition ticket.*

### Curator's Talks

Tuesday 6 March 2012 and Tuesday 8 May 2012

Introductions to the exhibition by the curator

*3.30 pm in the Tennant Gallery; Free with an exhibition ticket.*

## TENNANT GALLERY DATES AND OPENING HOURS:

Open to public: Thursday 23 February – Sunday 20 May 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.

## IMAGES

Publicity images for **LithORRgraphy: Chris Orr RA and the Art of Chemical Printing** in the Tennant Gallery can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at [www.picselect.com](http://www.picselect.com) and once registered go to the Royal Academy of Arts folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

### Notes to Editors:

The Royal Academy Collection focuses on British art and artists and predominantly ranges from the 18th century to the present day. Highlights in the collection of paintings and sculpture include major works by Reynolds, Gainsborough, Turner, Constable, Alma-Tadema, Flaxman, Millais, Leighton, Waterhouse, Sargent, Spencer and Hockney. The Collection includes paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, architectural designs, historic books, archives, historic photographs and plaster casts.

**FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION, please print 020 7300 8000 and [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)**

**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, fax: 020 7300 8032 or email [press.office@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:press.office@royalacademy.org.uk)**