

NEW HONORARY ROYAL ACADEMICIANS ELECTED

The Royal Academy of Arts is pleased to announce that Ai Weiwei and Per Kirkeby have been elected Honorary Members of the Royal Academy. Honorary Academicians are distinguished artists who are not resident in the UK. They do not take part in the governance of the RA and do not have voting rights. A maximum of two per year may be appointed by the RAs.

Ai Weiwei Hon RA

Widely considered to be one of the most significant cultural figures of his generation in China and internationally, Ai Weiwei (born Beijing 1957) successfully occupies multiple roles as a conceptual artist, architect, curator, designer, film-maker and publisher.

Ai Weiwei's work has been widely exhibited internationally in solo and group exhibitions. Recent solo shows include The Unilever Series: Ai Weiwei, Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London. A major public installation 'Circle of Animals / Zodiac Heads' is currently showing in New York and at Somerset House, London.

Per Kirkeby Hon RA

Born in Copenhagen, 1938, Per Kirkeby studied arctic geology at the University of Copenhagen before becoming involved with Copenhagen's radical ExperimentalArtSchool and international Fluxus. As one of the most internationally acclaimed Danish artists working today, his oeuvre includes painting, drawing, work in various print-media, sculpture (in bronze and brick) writing and film.

Kirkeby's works are represented in many public collections including Tate, London; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York and Centre Pompidou, Paris. Recent solo exhibition have been held at Tate Modern, London and Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf.

Notes to Editors:

The Royal Academy of Arts is governed by 80 Royal Academicians who are all practising painters, sculptors, engravers, printmakers, draughtsmen and architects. Elections are held annually and new Members are voted in by existing RAs. Other Honorary Royal Academicians include Tadao Ando, Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer, Jeff Koons, Julian Schnabel, Cindy Sherman and Cy Twombly.

For public information please print tel: 020 7300 8000 or www.royalacademy.org.uk

Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BD. For further press information, please contact Johanna Bennett at the Royal Academy Press Office on tel: 020 7300 5610, fax: 020 7300 8032 or email press.office@royalacademy.org.uk 01/06/11