

## **NEW ROYAL ACADEMICIANS ELECTED**

A recent General Assembly meeting saw the election of painter Jenny Saville and sculptor John Carter as Royal Academicians.

### **Jenny Saville RA, Painter**

Born in Cambridge in 1970, the contemporary British painter Jenny Saville is probably best known for her large scale oil paintings of fleshy, obese female figures. Saville's work invokes a deep fascination in the palpability of flesh, extremities of anatomy, and the grotesque combined with a masterly and yet intuitive instinct for the handling of paint. She graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 1992 and was appointed as lecturer at The Slade School of Fine Arts, London between 2000 - 2006.

By 1994 Saville's increasing profile enabled her to exhibit in several notable group shows: *Young British Artist's III*, Saatchi Gallery, London (1994); *Contemporary British Art '96'*, Museum of Kalmar, Stockholm (1996) and the iconic *Sensation: Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection*, Royal Academy of the Arts, London (1997), positioning Saville as one of the foremost painters of her generation. Many people became familiar with Saville's massive paintings, such as *Plan* (1993), in which a naked woman is seen from below, her body filling the canvas through a combination of physical bulk and extreme foreshortening, the surface of the flesh inscribed like a topographic map showing the distinct lines of a surgeon's plan. In 1999 Saville produced her first major solo exhibition; *Territories* for Gagosian Gallery, New York and subsequently her second solo show; *Migrants* also for Gagosian Gallery, New York (2003). More recently Saville was the subject of an in-depth survey exhibition at the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rome (2005) and the renowned collector Carlo Billoti commissioned Saville to produce 3 artworks for the inaugural exhibition of the Museo Carlo Bilotti, Rome (2006).

Jenny Saville lives and works between London and Palermo, Italy.

### **John Carter RA, Sculptor**

John Carter is best known for his abstract sculptures. His work is frequently described as being a dialogue between painting and sculpture. It consists mainly of constructed 'wall-objects', often with a mathematical basis. Fully three-dimensional works have been less frequent in his output.

Carter was born in Middlesex in 1942 and studied at the Twickenham School of Art from 1958 and then at Kingston School of Art until 1963. A Leverhulme Travelling Scholarship took him to

Italy, where he made his first abstract constructed works at the British School at Rome. On returning to England, Carter was engaged as an assistant to the sculptor Bryan Kneale and worked towards his first solo exhibition at Redfern Gallery, London in 1968. After winning two Arts Council Awards, a retrospective exhibition of his work was held at the Warwick Arts Trust, London in 1983. Later, Carter participated in the international show *Die Ecke* at Galerie Hoffmann, Friedberg, Germany, where he made his first contact with European concrete and constructive artists. He has since exhibited widely in Europe, Japan and the USA. John Carter held a teaching position at the Chelsea College of Art and Design until his retirement from the post in 1999. He now lives and works in London.

**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. On reaching the age of 75 they become Senior Academicians and so form vacancies for Membership. Elections are held annually and new Members are voted in by existing RAs.

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