

## NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED FOR THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Christopher Le Brun has been elected the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the Royal Academy of Arts at a General Assembly meeting of Royal Academicians. He succeeds Sir Nicholas Grimshaw PPR who has stepped down after seven years in office.

Christopher Le Brun was elected Royal Academician in the Category of Engravers, Printmakers and Draughtsmen in 1996 and in 2000 he became the Academy's first Professor of Drawing.

Born in Portsmouth in 1951, Le Brun studied at the Slade School of Fine Art (DFA) London from 1970-74 and at Chelsea School of Art (MA) from 1974-75. He has exhibited in many significant surveys of international art, including *Nuova Immagine*, Milan 1981, *Zeitgeist* Berlin 1982, *Avant-garde in the Eighties*, Los Angeles 1987 and *Contemporary Voices*, Museum of Modern Art New York 2005, *Watercolour*, Tate 2011. From 1987-88 he received the D.A.A.D. award from the German government, living and working in Berlin for a year. Le Brun is a former trustee of Tate, the National Gallery, and the Dulwich Picture Gallery. He is currently a trustee of the Prince's Drawing School. In 2010 he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the University of the Arts London. He is a Painter, Sculptor and Printmaker and his work is in many national and international collections including those of Tate, The British Museum, V&A and MOMA, New York.

Christopher Le Brun said: *"I am grateful for the vote of support that my colleagues have given me. The Royal Academy is one of the world's leading arts organisations and is unique because it is run by artists. I am looking forward to meeting the challenges of taking the Royal Academy into the future and building on its past successes."*

### NOTES TO EDITORS:

#### Membership

The President is Chairman of Council, which provides direction to the General Assembly, the governing body of the Academy which represents the Membership. The Membership comprises 80 Royal Academicians, all of whom are practising painters, sculptors, engravers, printmakers, draughtsmen and architects, as well as a number of Senior Academicians over the age of 75. The position of the Academy as an institution governed by its Members and not dependent on any public funding means that the President represents the only body able to speak with consistent authority in defence of art and artists in this country.

### **Past Presidents of the Royal Academy**

Sir Joshua Reynolds	1768–1792	Sir William Llewellyn	1928-1938
Benjamin West	1792–1805	Sir Edwin Lutyens	1938-1944
James Wyatt	1805-1806	Sir Alfred Munnings	1944-1949
Benjamin West	1806-1820	Sir Gerald Kelly	1949-1954
Sir Thomas Lawrence	1820-1830	Sir Albert Richardson	1954-1956
Sir Martin Archer Shee	1830-1850	Sir Charles Wheeler	1956-1966
Sir Charles Lock Eastlake	1850-1865	Sir Thomas Monnington	1966-1976
Sir Francis Grant	1866-1878	Sir Hugh Casson	1976-1984
Lord Leighton	1878-1896	Sir Roger de Grey	1984-1993
Sir John Everett Millais	1896	Sir Philip Dowson	1993-1999
Sir Edward J. Poynter	1896-1918	Professor Phillip King	1999-2004
Sir Aston Webb	1919-1924	Sir Nicholas Grimshaw	2004-2011
Sir Frank Dicksee	1924-1928		

### **IMAGES**

Publicity images of the RA's new President 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.

**For further press information, please contact Jennifer Francis on telephone 020 7300 5611, fax 020 7300 8032, or email [press.office@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:press.office@royalacademy.org.uk)**

**08/12/11**