

**ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS  
EXHIBITION PROGRAMME 2007**

**MAKING HISTORY: ANTIQUARIES IN BRITAIN, 1707-2007**

**Main Galleries**

15 September 2007 – 2 December 2007

**Making History: Antiquaries In Britain, 1707 – 2007** will explore the work and achievement of the Fellowship of the Society of Antiquaries of London since its foundation in the early eighteenth century to the present day. This exhibition will showcase for the first time, treasures from Britain's oldest Learned Society concerned with the study of the past. It will feature works of art, antiquities and manuscripts of unique historical importance, such as the processional cross of King Richard III and his defeated Yorkist army recovered from the battlefield of Bosworth (1485). Also on show will be the earliest known medieval manuscript illustrations of Stonehenge, as well as drawings and records of other buildings and objects now lost, paintings of ancient sites and landscapes by Constable, Turner, Blake and an extraordinary collection of English royal portraits from Henry VI to Mary Tudor.

Since its foundation in 1707, the Society has been at the forefront of research in archaeology and the study of the historic sites, monuments and artefacts of Britain. Through objects and biographies of leading antiquaries, this exhibition will feature milestones in the discovery, recording, interpretation and communication of Britain's past and reveal how new discoveries and technologies have transformed our understanding. The exhibition's guest curator, the celebrated historian Dr David Starkey FSA, says, "For me, history has always been as much about things - buildings, paintings, jewels - as written documents. So this Exhibition won't simply be a display of the Society's treasures - wonderful though they are - it's also an opportunity to show how history is made and why it matters".

**GEORG BASELITZ**

**Main Galleries**

22 September 2007 - 9 December 2007

The Royal Academy of Arts will be staging England's first retrospective exhibition of the work of distinguished artist, Georg Baselitz (born 1938). An Honorary Member of the RA, Baselitz featured in the seminal 1981 exhibition *A New Spirit in Painting* at the Royal Academy, which introduced his work to a British audience.

Featuring over 60 paintings together with a significant number of his drawings, prints and sculptures, the exhibition will be a comprehensive survey of Baselitz's oeuvre. These works will come from over 30 lenders, mainly in Europe, and will therefore provide a unique opportunity to consider his achievement over five decades.

His style has been described as neo-expressionist and post-modern. He is known for painting his subjects upside down as a strategy to free the subject matter from its content. Baselitz's early figurative work was very aggressive, and deals with problems in Germany in the post-war period where abstraction largely holds sway. This exhibition will demonstrate his return recently to motifs explored in his early career.

## **A PASSION FOR BRITISH ART, 1700- 1850: PAUL MELLON'S LEGACY**

### **The Sackler Wing Of Galleries**

20 October 2007 – 27 January 2008

The Royal Academy of Arts will be celebrating the centenary of the birth of Paul Mellon, one of the great collectors of British Art, with an exhibition of major works from the Paul Mellon Foundation. Paul Mellon (1907 – 1999) redefined the importance of British art. He founded the Yale Center for British Art, now home to the largest collection of British Art outside Britain, and established the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art in London. This exhibition will present over 100 works borrowed from the Yale Center for British Art, comprising works on paper, paintings, books and manuscripts, by such artists as Reynolds, Stubbs, Gainsborough, Constable, Turner and Reynolds. This will be an unparalleled opportunity to experience some of the finest works of British art.

Paul Mellon was born in 1907, into one of the most powerful banking families in the US that shared, with fellow Pittsburgh families, Carnegie and Frick, a commitment to public philanthropy. He enrolled at Yale University in 1929, continuing his studies at the University of Cambridge. Mellon's interest in British culture ranged from hunting, horse breeding and racing to the collection of art and books and to the curation of the most significant private collection of British Art to be made during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He bequeathed the majority of this collection to Yale in 1966 to establish the Yale Center for British Art, complementing it with the establishment in 1970 of the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art in London. On his death in 1999 he left important bequests to major British institutions, one of which was the Royal Academy.

### **TICKETS**

Tickets go on sale several months before an exhibition opens. For advance tickets to the RA's forthcoming exhibitions please visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk), call 0870 848 8484 or visit the RA Ticket Office. Groups of 10 or more (who receive a discount) must book in advance call 020 7300 8027 or email: [groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk)

### **IMAGES**

Publicity images can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at [www.papicselect.co.uk](http://www.papicselect.co.uk) and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section.

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