

Royal Academy of Arts

Burlington House
Piccadilly
London W1J 0BD
Tel: 020 7300 8000
Fax: 020 7300 8001

**Press
Release**

SUMMER EXHIBITION 2008

9 June – 17 August

MAIN GALLERIES

Sponsored by



As seen on BBC TWO:



Now in its 240th year, the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition 2008 continues the tradition of displaying a wide range of recent work by both established and emerging artists in all media including painting, printmaking, photography, sculpture and architecture. This year's co-ordinators, Royal Academicians Gordon Benson, Tony Cragg and Humphrey Ocean, have selected works for the exhibition around the theme of 'Man Made'. Since the foundation of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1768, the annual Summer Exhibition has become the world's largest open-submission contemporary art exhibition.

The Summer Exhibition attracts a high volume of entrants each year with around 10,000 works submitted this year. The majority of selected works are on sale, offering visitors an unrivalled opportunity to purchase original artwork by high profile and up-and-coming artists.

Highlights of this year's exhibition include a gallery curated by Royal Academician Tracey Emin who has invited a selection of artists including Mat Collishaw, Louise Bourgeois, Gary Hume, Michael Fullerton, Juergen Teller, Damien Hirst, Rebecca Warren and Rachel Kneebone. Please note that this gallery contains some material of a strong nature.

A memorial gallery is dedicated to the extraordinary artistic achievements of the late RB Kitaj RA. Curated by Marco Livingstone, the room includes several key paintings and works on paper representing his work from the last fifty years, including several recent smaller paintings which are available for sale. Works include *The Bells of Hell* (1960), *Catalan Christ (Pretending to be Dead)* (1976), *Sacha and Gabriel* (1981), *Bad Hearing* (1996), and a group of works from 2005-6.

Gavin Turk, Georg Baselitz Hon RA, Anselm Kiefer Hon RA, Damien Hirst and Anish Kapoor RA are amongst the artists exhibiting this year. Jeff Koons's *Cracked Egg (Blue)* and Ron Arad's *Ping Pong Table* are also on show.

The Architecture Room includes works by Sir Nicholas Grimshaw PRA, Gordon Benson RA, CJ Lim, Renzo Piano Hon RA, Hélène Binet, Bernard Tschumi, Lebbeus Woods, David Chipperfield RA, Eric Parry RA, Kengo Kuma and Zaha Hadid RA.

Following on from last year's successful BBC Series on the Summer Exhibition, the Royal Academy of Arts is delighted to be working with BBC TWO on an hour long *Culture Show* special to be screened in June.

MEMORIAL ARTIST

RB Kitaj RA (1932 – 2007)

Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1932, RB Kitaj studied at the Academy of Fine Art, Vienna, the Ruskin School of Drawing, Oxford and the Royal College of Art, London. Retrospectives of his work were held at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC in 1981 and at the Tate Gallery, London in 1994.

Kitaj was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1982. He also received Honorary Doctorates from the University of London, the Royal College of Art and Durham University. He received the Golden Lion for Painting at the Venice Biennale in 1995 and in 1997 won the Wollaston Award for the most distinguished work in the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. In 1996 he was nominated Chevalier des Arts and des Lettres by the French Government. Kitaj was elected Royal Academician in 1991 (ARA in 1984). From 1997 RB Kitaj lived and worked in Los Angeles.

ANNENBERG COURTYARD

A sculpture by Sir Anthony Caro RA has been installed in the RA's Annenberg Courtyard. Consisting of five free-standing painted steel structures, *Promenade*, 1996, was originally created for the Tuileries Gardens in Paris. Taking its name from the idea of strolling in a public place, the sculpture evokes the rhythm and movements of walking.

Sir Anthony Caro's *Promenade* is the latest installation in the RA's programme of Sculpture in the Courtyard and follows on from the Chapman's *The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth, but not the Mineral Rights*, Anselm Kiefer's *Jericho*, Rodin's *Gates of Hell* and Damien Hirst's *Virgin Mother*.

PRIZES

Each year, the Summer Exhibition recognises artists of exceptional merit, awarding a total of £70,000 prize money donated by commercial and industrial sponsors.

Established in 1978, the **Royal Academy of Arts Charles Wollaston Award** is, at £25,000, one of the largest and most prestigious art prizes in Britain. Previous winners include Gavin Turk (2007), Jake and Dinos Chapman (2003), Alan Charlton (2002), Marc Quinn (2001), Gerard Hemsworth (2000), David Hockney (1999), John Hoyland (1998) and R. B. Kitaj (1997).

SELECTION AND HANGING COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee for 2008 includes Royal Academicians Ivor Abrahams, Will Alsop, Gordon Benson, John Carter, Stephen Chambers, Tony Cragg, Gus Cummins, Tracey Emin, Anthony Green, Paul Huxley, Mick Moon, Humphrey Ocean and Mick Rooney. The President of the Royal Academy of Arts, Sir Nicholas Grimshaw, chaired the Committee.

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT

Now entering our third year as title sponsor of the Summer Exhibition, Insight Investment is delighted to be associated with the innovation and creativity for which the event is renowned.

Insight Investment was launched in September 2002 and is already one of the UK's largest investment managers with £109 billion assets under management as at 31st December 2007. We manage funds for institutional and retail clients across a range of asset types including equities, bonds, derivatives and alternatives, with the aim of providing precise investment solutions to meet our clients' investment needs. As the asset manager of HBOS plc, our parentage brings the benefits of strategic strength provided by one of the largest banks in Europe.

EVENTS PROGRAMME

Alongside the **Summer Exhibition 2008**, the Royal Academy of Arts will be running a diverse programme of special events, evening lectures and gallery talks. Dedicated events for families will include gallery talks and workshops. For children aged between 8 and 13 there will be a free printed guide sheet to the exhibition. Activity trays, including art materials, are available for younger visitors to create their own works of art.

DATES AND OPENING HOURS

Press view: **Wednesday 4 June 2008, 10am – 2pm**
Open to the public: Monday 9 June – Sunday 17 August 2008
10am – 6pm daily (last admission 5.30pm)
Late night opening: Fridays until 10pm (last admission 9.30pm)

ADMISSION

Admission prices include the List of Works giving details on every exhibit in the show.

£7.00 full price; £6.00 60 years+ and registered disabled; £5.00 NUS; £4.00 12-18 years and Income Support; £3.00 8-11 years; Free for 7 years and under.

TICKETS

Tickets are available daily at the RA. Advance bookings: Telephone 0870 848 8484 or visit www.royalacademy.org.uk. Group bookings: Groups of 10+ are asked to book in advance. Telephone 020 7300 5995, fax 020 7300 5781 or email groupbookings@royalacademy.org.uk

IMAGES

Publicity images for the **Summer Exhibition 2008** can be obtained from Picselect, the Press Association's image service for press use. Please register at www.picselect.com and once registered go to the Royal Academy folder in the Arts section of Picselect.

For further press information, please contact Johanna Bennett on tel: 020 7300 5615, fax: 020 7300 8032, or email press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

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

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