

Thursday, 12 January 2023

## Contemporary artworks gifted to Queen Elizabeth II go on display at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace

**Royal Academy Platinum Jubilee Gift****12 January – 26 February 2023**

Yinka Shonibare CBE,  
*Common Wealth, 2022*

Twenty contemporary artworks gifted by the Royal Academy of Arts to Queen Elizabeth II have gone on display today at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace. The works of art on paper are by Royal Academicians elected in the past decade, including Rebecca Salter (President of the RA), Wolfgang Tillmans, Lubaina Himid and Yinka Shonibare CBE, and were presented to mark Her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

The Royal Academy was established in 1768 with the support of George III, and the connection between the Sovereign and the Academy has continued to flourish ever since. The Platinum Jubilee Gift follows similarly generous gifts to mark the Coronation in 1953, the Silver Jubilee in 1977 and the Diamond Jubilee in 2012, and bears witness to the diversity of contemporary British art – from traditional media such as brush and ink to the boundless possibilities of digital prints, and in modes ranging from meticulous architectural construction to playful abstraction.

The eclectic group of works on display includes Wolfgang Tillmans' *Regina*, a photograph taken during Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2002, which shows Her late Majesty in the Gold State Coach passing along Fleet Street from St Paul's Cathedral after a Service of Thanksgiving. Yinka Shonibare has contributed *Common Wealth*, a digital print of an orchid against a collage of platinum leaf and Dutch wax printed fabric. Rana Begum, one of the most recently elected Academicians, has contributed *WP547*, one of a series of works by the artist composed of layers of colourful spraypainted circles. Sir Isaac Julien's *Lady of the Lake* is a fictionalised portrait of the American abolitionist Anna Murray Douglass, a principal figure in the 'Underground Railroad', a network of linked routes by which enslaved people could secure their liberation and travel North to free states and Canada during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Also on display is a digital print of Thomas Heatherwick's design for the *Tree of Trees* project. The 21-foot sculpture incorporating 350 saplings was erected outside Buckingham Palace as part of The Queen's Green Canopy, a national tree planting initiative, and was illuminated during a special Platinum Jubilee ceremony on 2 June 2022.

Previous gifts by the Royal Academy to Queen Elizabeth II have contained works by leading British artists such as Augustus John, Sir Alfred Munnings and Stanley Spencer (marking the Coronation in 1953); Peter Blake and Dame Elisabeth Frink (in celebration of The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977); and Tracey Emin, David Hockney and Sir Anish Kapoor (to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012).

The Royal Academy gift of works on paper are on display until 26 February alongside *Japan: Courts and Culture*, an exhibition telling the story of 350 years of diplomatic, artistic and cultural exchange between the British and Japanese royal and imperial families.

## Ends

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**Royal Academy Platinum Jubilee Gift is included in a ticket to the exhibition *Japan: Courts and Culture* at The Queen's Gallery until 26 February 2023.**

### **Artists with works on display:**

Sir David Adjaye OBE RA  
Rana Begum RA  
Adam Caruso and Peter St John RA  
Ryan Gander OBE RA Elect  
Thomas Heatherwick CBE RA  
Lubaina Himid CBE RA  
Louisa Hutton OBE RA and Matthias Sauerbruch  
Vanessa Jackson RA  
Sir Isaac Julien RA  
Amanda Leveté CBE RA  
Jock McFadyen RA  
Níall McLaughlin MBE RA  
Cathie Pilkington RA  
Peter Randall-Page RA  
Rebecca Salter PRA  
Tim Shaw RA  
Yinka Shonibare CBE RA  
Emma Stibbon RA  
Wolfgang Tillmans RA  
Jane and Louise Wilson RA

**A selection of images is available via [WeTransfer](#) (see contact sheet attached). For further information and images, please contact the Royal Collection Trust Press Office, +44 (0)20 7839 1377, [press@rct.uk](mailto:press@rct.uk).**

**Visitor information and tickets for The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace: [www.rct.uk](http://www.rct.uk), T. +44 (0)30 3123 7301. The Queen's Gallery is open Thursday to Monday, remaining closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.**

### **Notes to Editors**

**Royal Collection Trust**, a department of the Royal Household, is responsible for the care of the Royal Collection and manages the public opening of the official residences of The King. Income generated from admissions and from associated commercial activities contributes directly to The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of The Trust are the care and conservation of the Royal Collection, and the promotion of access and enjoyment through exhibitions, publications, loans and educational programmes. Royal Collection Trust's work is undertaken without public funding of any kind.

**The Royal Collection** is among the largest and most important art collections in the world, and one of the last great European royal collections to remain intact. It comprises almost all

aspects of the fine and decorative arts, and is spread among some 15 royal residences and former residences across the UK, most of which are regularly open to the public. The Royal Collection is held in trust by the Sovereign for his successors and the nation, and is not owned by The King as a private individual.

### **About the Royal Academy of Arts**

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate. [www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

The Royal Academy of Arts is governed by up to 100 Royal Academicians who are all practising artists or architects. On reaching the age of 75 they become Senior Academicians thus initiating vacancies for new Members.

Admission to The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace is managed by The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity in England and Wales (1016972) and in Scotland (SCO39772).