

attRAct Spring Programme

January – April 2025

attRAct

Royal Academy of Arts

Welcome to attRAct

Dear students,

Welcome to attRAct and to the RA!

We are very excited about spending the year with you.

Through the attRAct programme, you will have the chance to take part in a wide variety of activities, including practical workshops, tutorials with artists, exhibition tours, excursions, and studio visits. There will also be specially tailored sessions providing careers advice, teaching you how to talk and write about your work, and how to approach portfolio reviews.

attRAct is an opportunity to connect with students from other schools. It is also a chance to meet and work with professional artists and to learn new skills. The Royal Academy of Arts is an inspiring environment in which to discuss, debate and make art.

Over the course of the next year, we will get to know each other well! You will be sent a digital programme like this at the start of each of the three terms. You will be able to read about all of the workshops that are on offer for that term and sign up for the sessions that interest you via our online form. We will then allocate places for each session and invite you via email.

We look forward to meeting you all at the welcome event on Saturday 25 January, 10am–2pm.

Thanks!

Anna



Image: Justine Trickett, Young People's Programme 2024

Welcome to attRAct!

Saturday 25 January
10am–2pm

All new attRAct students are invited to this special welcome event. There will be a number of team building exercises to introduce you to the other attRAct students.

There will also be plenty of opportunities to explore the RA campus and become more familiar with your new creative base, including practical workshops and a tour of the RA.

About

Lucy Stiles is a teacher and learning programme manager. After studying film and video at an art college which doesn't exist anymore, she has led the creative arts in schools in Essex and London, and has managed programmes for families and secondary schools here at the RA. She is a keen cinema goer, comic book reader, puppeteer and collector of childhood nostalgia.

Usva Inei is a trans non-binary visual artist and art educator. Stemming from their lived experiences as a queer Russian immigrant, Usva's art practice addresses themes of cultural clash, misuse of power, suppression of freedom of speech, and generational trauma. Usva's artmaking is strongly linked to working with communities: they regularly teach and run workshops with the aim of fostering reflection, interaction and empathy.



Image: RA Library

Tour: Library & Collections

Saturday 8 February
10am–12.30pm
30 places available

Join RA Staff for an introduction to the Royal Academy's Library and Collection. The Collection began with the foundation of the Royal Academy in 1768. It now contains about 935 paintings, 350 sculptures, 700 plaster casts, 25,000 prints and drawings and 5,000 historic photographs.

The Library, also established at the time of the RA's foundation, is the oldest institutional Fine arts library in the UK. It holds a significant collection of books about both British art and the history of the RA since the mid-18th century.

This introduction will provide you with further context into the RA's history, and an insider's guide to gems of the collection which aren't on display to the public.

About

Adam Waterton
Head of Library Services

Annette Wickham
Curator of Works on Paper

Gabriel Jamroz
Genesis Future Curator

Harry Baxter is an artist and audio describer based in South London. He graduated from The London City and Guilds Art School in 2001 with a degree in fine art painting. He has won travel scholarships to study the work of the Mexican Muralists, received funding from the Michael Hayworth Trust and is an honorary member of the Worshipful Company of Painters and Stainers guild. His work has been exhibited in The Discerning Eye, The Rockwell Arts Space, The Denman Arts project and with the 'Le Gun' arts collective. He has worked in the museum & gallery sector for 18 years with clients including the RA, British Museum, Tate, Barbican, Wellcome Collection, Slade UCL, Kings College, RCA, British Council and the University of Granada.



Image: Jake Garfield, *Man Holding a Snake*, exhibition poster

Careers: Jake Garfield @ 8 Holland Street

Saturday 15 February
10am–12.30pm
10 places available

We will visit Jake Garfield's exhibition 'Man Holding a Snake' at 8 Holland Street's flagship space in St James's Park. We will explore themes within the work as well as discussing the professional side of being an artist, including working with galleries, promoting your work online, and statement-writing.

About

Jake Garfield is a London-based artist, working primarily with printmaking. His work lives in public and private collections including The V&A, The Royal Collection, Pallant House Gallery and The British Museum.



Image: Lyndon Barrois Jr, *Precious Gums* (detail), wood, plexiglas, and paper, objects—fake and authentic—from Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, 2023

Workshop: Collection Curiosity

Saturday 22 February
10am–2pm
30 spaces available

Join Starr Fellow, and RA Schools Artist in Residence Lyndon Barrois Jr, for a workshop where you will engage with the RA's Collection database to build narratives and relationships between seemingly unrelated objects and images.

About

Lyndon Barrois Jr (b. New Orleans, LA) is an artist based in Pittsburgh, PA and as the current Starr Fellow is the Artist in Residence at the RA Schools. He uses cinema as a means to travel both temporally and geographically, bringing to mind ideas of anachronism, simultaneity, and reanimation. He is currently undergoing a project that uses the heist film and museum context to contend with legacies of colonial extraction. In various ways, Barrois navigates questions around color, control, taste, waste, and the layering of information.



Image: Cork Street Galleries

Excursion: 'Gallery crawl'

Saturday 8 March
11am–2pm
15 places available

Familiarise yourself with an array of galleries and auction houses near the RA, as we introduce you to the commercial art world.

In the galleries of Mayfair and St James's, we'll find a range of artworks, from Old Masters to Modern masterpieces. Commercial galleries also give us the rare opportunity to see pieces by influential artists, before they disappear into private collections.

Some of these galleries can be intimidating, and this tour will consider how to go about navigating these spaces; giving you the confidence to visit them independently throughout the year and beyond.

About

Andrew Dearman is an Art History student at the Courtauld Institute of Art. He began his career as an apprentice at Christie's auction house, before progressing to a Sale Coordinator position in the Antiquities department. He is interested in Pre-Columbian and Egyptian antiquity, as well as Pop art and performance art. Andrew was previously an RA Young Producer and is an alumnus of Art History Link-Up.



Image: Elinor Stanley, *Lily*, Oil on canvas, 2023

Workshop: Painting People

Saturday 22 March
10am–2pm
30 spaces available

Taking inspiration from the Collection Galleries new hang 'Observation to Abstraction' representing the body. Participants will use oil paint to respond to the paintings on display and create their own figurative paintings. This will be a practical workshop, with an emphasis on learning the technical qualities of oil paint.

About

Elinor Stanley is an artist and graduate from the Royal Academy schools. Stanley uses painting to amplify and heighten experience; the figurative focus of a painting shifts as a confused eye might. Her paintings show strange and anxious encounters in clashing, singing colours. Huge heads swim, perspective lurches, bodies repeat.



Image: Sir John Soane Museum London

Excursion: Sir John Soane Museum London

Friday 11 April
10am
18 places available

Discover the extraordinary house and museum of Sir John Soane RA, one of the greatest English architects, who built and lived in it two centuries ago. The museum has been kept as it was at the time of his death in 1837, and displays his vast collection of antiquities, furniture, sculptures, architectural models and paintings.

About

Sir John Soane RA (1753–1837) was an architect who specialised in the Neo-Classical style. He is most well-known for designing the previous Bank of England, Dulwich Picture Gallery and Fitzhanger Manor & Gallery. He received part of his architectural education at the RA and was elected a Royal Academician in 1802.



Image: attRAct in the Life Drawing Room

Workshop: Life Drawing

Saturday 26 April
10am–2pm
25 spaces available

Join us for the first life drawing workshop on attRAct this year, held in the RA's historic Life Drawing Room. You will be introduced to the potentials of the medium of drawing: including mark making, gesture and expression.

Life drawing has been established within the programme as a vital strand of practical, traditional teaching that underpins the development of artistic skill and development. With a history of life drawing that spans back to before the establishment of the RA Schools, the Royal Academy of Arts is the perfect place to explore this skill.

About

Charlotte Guerard is an artist in her final year at the Royal Academy Schools. Her practice focuses on painting and questions the framing and format of this medium. In the last few years she has shown her work in the UK and in France both with galleries and independent projects. Following her BA at the University of Brighton, Charlotte was Awarded the Freelance Painting Prize in 2020 and the Platform graduate award and has since carried on her career through studio development and teaching.



Images: Ken Kiff RA, *Men, Book and Scissors*, 1970s. Oil or acrylic on canvas. 1220 mm x 915 mm. © The Artist's Estate. © Photo: Royal Academy of Arts, London. Sir George Clausen RA, *A Girl Reading* (detail), 1898–1944. 188 mm x 126 mm. © Photo: Royal Academy of Arts, London

Social: Book Club

Saturday 26 April
3–4.30pm

At the welcome event, we will collectively decide on what to read for this term. We encourage you to read the chosen book in your own time, and then join us for a relaxed and informal gathering where we will come together to share our thoughts over tea and coffee. As the year progresses, you will have the chance to suggest future reads to creatively inspire and fuel our imagination.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of whether you have read the book.

About

Cornelius Prior is an art worker, writer, editor, and researcher. They produce texts, events and objects guided by a preoccupation with hospitality and interdependence. Prior is working on a book of autotheoretical writing about the visual cultures of the end of life and they are one fifth of the writing collective We Don't Write Alone.



Image: Saturday Sketch Club

Extra: Saturday Sketch Club

11 January
8 February
8 March
10.30am–11.45am

'Saturday Sketch Club' is a series of online art classes. Sessions take place online via a live webinar. Workshops are recorded and are emailed to attendees a week after the event.

About

This series is ticketed, but attRAct students can attend for free by using the promotional code: **COMMUNITYTIX**

royalacademy.org.uk/page/saturday-sketch-club



Image: Drop-in and draw © Justine Trickett

Extra: Drop-in and draw

7 February
7 March
4 April
6–8pm

About

Drop in on the first Friday night of the month for an evening of free drawing, led by professional artists who can give you tips and tricks for improving your drawing.

RA

Call for entries

An exciting opportunity for students aged 4–18, who are living and studying in the UK, to exhibit their artwork on site or online at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Open for submissions

6 January – 5 March 2025

Find out more and enter

roy.ac/youngartists

#RAYoungArtists

Young Artists' Summer Show

2025

Royal
Academy
of Arts

Made possible by Robin Hambro

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts is an independent institution led by artists and architects whose purpose is to promote the creation, enjoyment, and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education, and debate.

Royal Academicians

Eighty governing artists—Royal Academicians—all practising painters, sculptors, engravers, printmakers, draughtsmen and architects, are elected to the Royal Academy. When they're elected, all RAs are required to donate an example of their work. Past Royal Academicians include Sir Joshua Reynolds (the first President of the RA), John Constable, and J.M.W. Turner; current Members include Bob and Roberta Smith, Yinka Shonibare, David Hockney and Tracey Emin.

Summer Exhibition

One of the founding principles of the RA was to 'mount an annual exhibition open to all artists of distinguished merit' to finance the training of young artists in the RA Schools. Now known as the Summer Exhibition and held every year without interruption since 1769, the exhibition attracts around 15,000 works, with the edited selection made by Royal Academicians.

Exhibitions

The RA presents a continuous programme of temporary, internationally acclaimed exhibitions covering all periods and art forms.

Collections and Library

The RA owns a major collection of works by Royal Academicians, past and present, and has the oldest and one of the most beautiful fine arts libraries in the

RA Schools

The RA's art school is the oldest in Britain. Today, the contemporary Fine Art school supports around fifty students on a free three-year postgraduate course. They use a variety of media including painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, sculpture, moving image, audio and performative non-material approaches. Recent graduates of the schools include Micheal Armitage, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Ayo Akingbade, Issy Wood and Prem Sahib.

Cover image:
Justine Trickett, BNP Paribas' AccessArt25, 2023


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