

Press Release

BE PART OF ART

Past, Present & Future of the
Royal Watercolour Society

30 January - 3 February

Drinks Reception and launch of
Secret Postcard Sale & Online Auction:
Tuesday 29 January, 6pm

Bankside Gallery
Open daily 11am - 6pm



Day Moon, Norman Alexander Clark RWS, 1913 - 1992

The Royal Watercolour Society has a rich and fascinating history and the Archive & Diploma Collection, which comprises artworks and documents associated with its artists since the formation of the Society in 1804, demonstrates this. In January 2019 paintings, letters, photographs and many other forms of historic ephemera will go on display for the first time in an exhibition at Bankside Gallery, the home of the RWS, to raise awareness of its importance to the past, present and future of British art.

Accompanying this will be an auction of works by contemporary members and a secret postcard sale of works by numerous influential British artists. All proceeds from sales will facilitate the renovation of the new RWS gallery space at Whitcomb Street, just off Trafalgar Square.

PAST

The RWS voted to start a Diploma Collection in 1860 and since then almost every member has contributed an artwork. These include pieces by John Singer Sargent, Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Samuel Palmer, Arthur Rackham, Edward Burne-Jones and more recently Elizabeth Blackadder and Patrick Procktor. A selection of works from the Collection will go on display alongside other memorabilia and ephemera from the Archives.

PRESENT

Alongside the works by its historic artists there will be pieces by current members of the RWS, of which all will be available in an online auction for the duration of the exhibition. Over 100 specially-commissioned small-scale pieces will form a secret postcard sale with all works priced at £60. All money raised through artwork sales, souvenirs and donations in the gallery will go directly towards renovating a new gallery space at Whitcomb Street.

This is your chance to BE PART OF ART.

FUTURE

In 2015 property developers Hobhouse SA approached the RWS to offer occupancy of a gallery space on Whitcomb Street, just around the corner from where the Society was based for over 115 years in the 19th and 20th centuries. The RWS happily accepted and are now fundraising for renovation works to take place in the currently derelict space. The Whitcomb Street Gallery will provide the RWS with an additional space to showcase their work, store their Collection and deliver educational activities, complementing their existing home at Bankside Gallery. An architectural model of the proposed Whitcomb Street Gallery will be on display as part of the exhibition and the renovation project is expected to complete in 2020.

For further press enquiries please contact RWS Secretary Fay Brown fbrown@banksidegallery.com

#BePartOfArt #WhitcombStreetProject

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