



The Royal Scottish Academy

Celebrating Together

70 cultural partners joining a UK wide jubilee as the Royal Scottish Academy marks 200 year anniversary



The Hunterian, University of Glasgow; V&A Dundee; Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Rachel Maclean RSA (Elect), *The Lion and the Unicorn*

[Further press images here](#)

In 2026, the Royal Scottish Academy, one of the oldest and most prestigious cultural institutions in Scotland, will be 200 years old. An independent artist-led organisation with links to every part of Scotland and beyond, the Royal Scottish Academy is planning a unique celebration involving hundreds of artists, partners, galleries and institutions. Today a first glimpse of these plans is revealed with events planned across 2026.



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Set to be the widest reaching project ever of its type in Scotland with over 70 cultural partners coming together to mark the occasion with their own tailored events, exhibitions, performances, talks and collection rehangs across multiple venues. A series of major exhibitions will also take place at the RSA in Edinburgh, from new solo shows to group exhibitions that showcase the RSA then and now in a series of new and enlightening ways.

Partner projects are in continued development with fuller plans to be revealed in January 2026, while more partners are welcome and the invitation is open to organisations large and small to get involved. Some current confirmed highlights across Scotland include:

Fruitmarket will mount a major solo exhibition by Ilana Halperin RSA. Halperin's artwork explores the relationship between geology and daily life via media, writing, performance, printmaking, sculpture, drawing, and film and she will be presenting a series of work February-May 2026 at the Edinburgh gallery. **The National Galleries of Scotland** will also show a major new body of work by a prominent Royal Scottish Academician with news on this to be revealed later in 2026.

Celebrations in Midlothian and Glasgow will put photography into focus. At **Dalkeith Palace** a survey exhibition on Scottish photography and the RSA will take place. A spotlight on contemporary photography will continue in Glasgow at **Street Level Photoworks** with photographer Craig Easton discussing his ongoing work as part of his RSA Residency for Scotland, an artist-led scheme that provides valuable research and residency opportunities for artists. Easton has been documenting a beekeeper on the Isle of Colonsay and the resulting works will use the beekeeper's experience as a metaphor for wider human and ecological concerns. **The Glasgow School of Art** has commissioned Glasgow-based artist Josie KO for new work, as part of the RSA200 celebrations. KO was a selected artist for the RSA's New Contemporaries in 2023, an annual showcase that spotlights emerging artists.



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Joyce Cairns, previous president of the Royal Scottish Academy (RSA) with current president, Gareth Fisher and new artwork by Kate Downie RSA to mark the launch of a nationwide celebration - Celebrating Together: 200 Years of the RSA. Image: Neil Hanna

Across Scotland, from the Outer Hebrides to Orkney and Shetland the connections to the RSA will be marked throughout the year. **Gairloch Museum** is planning a group exhibition featuring selected RSA Academicians, New Contemporaries, and residency artists. **Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**, the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture in Skye, will take a deep dive into their arts archive collection, curating exhibitions throughout the year that will include works by Peter Howson, Arthur Watson PPRSA, Alexander Moffat RSA, and Frances Walker RSA.

Shetland Museum & Archives will present an exhibition in collaboration with the **National Library of Scotland** that provides an in-depth look at twentieth-century poet Hugh MacDiarmid and how his time in Shetland had a profound influence on his work. **Inverness Museum & Art Gallery** will celebrate women's contribution to Highland & Islands art through connections to the RSA with an exhibition of new work from two current female Academicians, Anne Bevan RSA (Elect) and Mary Bourne RSA. The **University of Aberdeen** will exhibit paintings by RSA artists, including Scottish Colourists, in an exhibition highlighting Eric and Marjorie Linklater's 1976 bequest of Scottish modernist art. Whilst the **Scottish Maritime Museum** in Irvine will celebrate the RSA's connections to all things nautical with an exhibition of Scotland's maritime heritage explored through the RSA artists. The RSA's longstanding history with architecture will be spotlighted at the **V&A Dundee**.



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A big birthday for the RSA, celebrations begin in the gallery. Artwork by Ross Sinclair RSA (Elect), *31 Years of Real Life, School of Whales* (selected). Image: Royal Scottish Academy.

The Wyllieum, in Greenock, will focus on Academicians who nominated Scottish artist George Wyllie for RSA membership, in an exhibition curated by Arthur Watson PPRSA (President of the RSA from 2012-18). **Angus Alive** will host Royal Scottish Academy: 200 Years of Art in Angus, an exhibition showcasing work from previous Academicians in the Angus collection and **Callendar House** will feature work from previous RSA New Contemporaries artists, in collaboration with Art in Healthcare. **The Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum** will recognise the Carnegie Travelling Scholarship with an exhibition that celebrates over 120 years of Andrew Carnegie's gift and support to the RSA. The **Wardlaw Museum at the University of St Andrews** will present a multi-layered exhibition on perceptions of Scottish identity and culture, featuring representative loans from RSA collections, and the **University of Stirling** will explore the links of art and science through work by RSA artists. A collective of **NHS** arts programmes are collaborating for the first time on a national exhibition touring hospital galleries across Scotland, celebrating the role RSA-associated artists play in supporting the health of our nation.



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Further afield

Across the UK too, the celebration continues. The **Granary Gallery** in Berwick-upon-Tweed will celebrate the life and work of beloved artist Joan Eardley RSA in partnership with the **Fleming Collection** and **The Royal West of England Academy** will host *Cosmos*, an exhibition featuring Annie Cattrell RSA and Murdo Macdonald HRSA.

Painter and filmmaker Ronald Forbes RSA will also curate a series of programmes showcasing moving image work from the RSA collections by Academicians and RSA award winners. These will be available digitally to partner organisations to screen as complete packages and resources, with supporting information and interpretation.

Architectural heritage will play a significant role in the celebrations. Over the last 200 years, much of Scotland's built environment has been designed by RSA architect Academicians of the past and present. The RSA is compiling an **architectural survey to reveal all these buildings** and map them into their website for 2026, to enable audiences across the country to discover them as part of Celebrating Together.

At home in the **Royal Scottish Academy** building, a series of major exhibitions will also take place - from new solo shows to group exhibitions that aim to showcase the RSA's vibrant and formative past, the pertinent present and a glimpse of a promising future ahead. Their flagship Annual Exhibition will have a special feel and *New Contemporaries 2026* will be a unique opportunity to Celebrate Together with Scotland's schools of art and architecture. The RSA's website will be the main hub for the project, and will feature an interactive map and partners pages, which will enable audiences to discover everything that is happening in Celebrating Together across 2026. Organisations that might like to join the project are welcome to make contact via the RSA Celebrating Together project manager Jane Matthews: JaneMatthews@royalscottishacademy.org

Colin Greenslade, Director of the RSA, says:

'This ambitious anniversary celebration will bring partners and communities together to celebrate the cultural history and present influence and connections of the Royal Scottish Academy across Scotland and beyond. The RSA has long supported art and architecture in Scotland and, in its 200th year, is a dynamic institution run by artists, for artists. This bicentenary celebration offers a fantastic opportunity to spotlight our unique independent heritage, our connections to (and support of) Scotland's contemporary artists and architects; and to pave the way for future plans.'



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Sandy Wood, Head of Collections at the RSA, says:

'2026 will be a joyful celebration that honours the history of the Royal Scottish Academy and looks forward to a promising future. The year-long celebration will help connect and celebrate RSA artists and architects, as well as established and emerging artists who have been part of the RSA family over the last 200 years. We're delighted that so many cultural organisations across Scotland are joining the party and we're looking forward to celebrating together in 2026. There's still plenty of time to join in and we welcome contact with organisations and projects who'd like to be part of this special year.'

The Royal Scottish Academy was founded in 1826 to support artists and architects and promote art and architecture in Scotland. They are an independent, non-governmental charitable institution led by Academicians. Royal Scottish Academicians are prominent artists and architects elected by their peers who govern the RSA on a democratic basis. The RSA run a year-round programme of exhibitions, artist opportunities and events from their base at The Mound in Edinburgh. The RSA holds an historic collection recognised as being of National Significance to Scotland.

RSA x Art UK

A partnership with **Art UK** will act as a hub to draw together strands across Scotland and UK-wide and will also feature stories, curations and artist features that highlight RSA connections.

RSA x The Skinny

RSA are teaming up with The Skinny to deliver a series of bespoke advertising and editorial bicentennial showcases across print and digital platforms.

RSA x Jack Arts

Art will come to life across cities in Scotland with reimagined RSA art works on creative billboards in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Perth.

The full celebrations will kick-off in January 2026. It's a birthday party not to be missed.



ENDS

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Notes to Editors

A full list of RSA200 partners include: ART UK, JackARTs, The Skinny, Aberdeen Art Gallery, An Ealdhain Arts Trust, An Lanntair, An Talla Solais, Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum, Angus Alive, Callendar House, Culture Heritage and Arts Assembly, Argyll and Isles (CHARTS) / The Argyll Collection, City Art Centre, Cromarty Arts Trust, Perth Art Gallery and Culture Perth & Kinross, Dalkeith Palace, Dovecot Studios, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Dundee Heritage Trust, East Ayrshire Leisure / Dick Institute, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh Printmakers, Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, Elgin Museum, Fire Station Creative, Fleming Collection, Fruitmarket, Gairloch Museum, Glasgow Life, GoMA and Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow Print Studio, Glasgow Sculpture Studios, Glasgow Women's Library, Gordon Highlanders Museum, Gracefield Arts Centre, Glasgow School of Art, Hawick Museum, Hugo Burge Foundation, The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, Inverness Museum & Art Gallery, John Gray Centre (East Lothian Council Museum Services), Kirkcudbright Galleries, Laing Art Gallery (North East Museums), Lillie Art Gallery, Linlithgow Burgh Halls – West Lothian Council, Lyon & Turnbull, Maclaurin Art Gallery, The Maltings (Granary Gallery), The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, Museums Galleries Scotland, National Galleries Of Scotland, National Library of Scotland, National Trust for Scotland (NTS), OnFife, Outer Spaces, Paisley Museum & Art Gallery - ONE REN, Peacock & the Worm, Pier Arts Centre, Robert Gordon University / Gray's School of Art, R&A World Golf Museum, Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS), Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolour (RSW), Royal West of England Academy (RWA), Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scottish Fisheries Museum, Scottish Maritime Museum, Scottish NHS Arts Collective ((Tonic Arts (NHS Lothian Charity), Artlink Central (NHS Forth Valley), NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, OutPost Arts (NHS Dumfries & Galloway), Tayside Healthcare Arts Trust (NHS Tayside), Grampian Hospitals Art Trust (NHS Grampian) and Art in Healthcare (Scotland)), Scottish Sculpture Workshop, Scottish Society for Art History (SSAH), Studies in Photography, Scottish Women in the Arts Research Network (SWARN), Shetland Arts, Shetland Museum and Archives, Society of Scottish Artists (SSA), South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture (Low Parks Museum), South Ayrshire Council – Rozelle House Museum & Galleries, Stills Centre for Photography, Street Level Photoworks, Summerhall Arts, Surgeons' Hall Museum, Taigh Chearsabhagh, Travelling Gallery, Timespan, Traquair House, University of Aberdeen, University of Dundee Museums, University of St Andrews, University of Stirling, University of the Highlands & Islands, V&A Dundee, The Wyllieum, Watt Institution (the old McLean Museum and Art Gallery), West Dunbartonshire Council (Clydebank Museum & Art Gallery), Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Trust

RSA on social media

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Royal Scottish Academy Exhibitions Programme 2025 ahead of 2026 anniversary can be found here -

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EiYHRUnUURR_Uv5AEo3evYWS4Ei9ByVp/edit