



HELEN LEGG APPOINTED AS NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

TWO FURTHER SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

The Royal Academy of Arts announced today that Helen Legg has been appointed as the new Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Arts. She is currently Director of Tate Liverpool and will start her new role at the Royal Academy in June 2026. She will take on responsibility for the RA's world-class exhibition programme, collection and public programme.

Legg spent her early career as a curator at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, before being appointed Director of Spike Island, Bristol in 2010. She has been Director of Tate Liverpool since 2018 and, during her tenure, has led the gallery's artistic vision, delivering high profile international exhibitions and commissions.

Also joining the Royal Academy this June will be two further senior leadership appointments. Livia Evans will be joining as Commercial Director, bringing over a decade of senior commercial leadership experience from The John Lewis Partnership. Lamia Dabboussy will join as Director of Brand & Audiences, having been Director of Engagement at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia.

Rebecca Salter CBE, President of the Royal Academy of Arts, said: 'We are delighted about these exciting new appointments. The Royal Academicians and Council are confident they will build on and deliver the important work for which the Royal Academy is internationally renowned. We greatly look forward to welcoming them in June.'

Simon Wallis OBE, Secretary and Chief Executive of the Royal Academy, said: 'Helen is the ideal person for the role of Artistic Director at the RA. She is highly respected in the art world and has a proven track record in delivering exceptional exhibitions. I'm also delighted by the Senior Leadership appointments of Lamia Dabboussy as Director of Brand & Audiences and Livia Evans as Commercial Director. Their vision, energy and experience make them the perfect fit for the RA.'

Helen Legg said: 'I'm thrilled to be appointed Artistic Director at the Royal Academy. The RA is led by leading artists and architects, with the UK's oldest – and crucially free – art school at its heart. The opportunity to shape the RA's artistic programme and respond to its extraordinary gallery spaces, as well as launching the expanded Collection Gallery, is tremendously exciting.'

Notes to Editors:

Helen Legg Biography

Helen Legg was appointed Director of Tate Liverpool in 2018. During her tenure, Tate Liverpool has evolved to more closely mirror the city and its myriad histories, using Tate's international reputation and outstanding collection to place the city at the centre of an outward-looking artistic programme. She has led a major capital project to transform the gallery's Grade 1 listed building, which will reopen in 2027. In addition to running the gallery, she oversaw Tate's national partnerships and served as Chair of Royal Albert Dock.

Prior to arriving at Tate, Legg was director of Spike Island, Bristol (2010-2018), a gallery and studio complex with a programme focused on emerging and under-recognised artists. She previously worked as a curator at Ikon Gallery, Birmingham (2005-2010), where she was heavily involved in the development of Ikon Eastside, a second gallery and events space based in a former factory building in Digbeth, an industrial area of the city.

Legg has been part of selection committees for British and Scottish representation at the Venice Biennale, and has been a judge for the Turner Prize, the Contemporary Art Society's Museums Award, the Hepworth Prize for Sculpture, the Jerwood Drawing Prize and the Paul Hamlyn Artist's Awards.

She gained an MA in History of Art from the University of St Andrews in 1996, followed by an MA in Curating & Commissioning Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art. She completed the Chief Executive Programme of National Art Strategies, hosted by Harvard Business School and Michigan Business School, in April 2015.

Livia Evans Biography

Livia Evans brings over a decade of senior commercial leadership experience from The John Lewis Partnership. She is experienced in driving revenue and profit improvement across retail, hospitality, and service industries within brand and values-led organisations.

Most recently, she served as Head of Customer Experience and Operations at The John Lewis Partnership – Build to Rent. Prior to this, she delivered significant growth in John Lewis service and commercial divisions.

Lamia Dabboussy Biography

Lamia Dabboussy is currently Director of Engagement at the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, leading audience development, marketing and communications, visitor experience, events, creative education, access and design. She has a track record of delivering strategic transformation, innovation and broad public participation across arts, culture and media.

Previously, Lamia held senior roles at the BBC, delivering award-winning content and digital innovation while expanding outreach and audience impact.

Images

For images, please contact the RA Press Office: press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

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.

The Royal Academy is an independent charity. It does not receive revenue funding from the government so is reliant upon the support of its visitors, donors, sponsors, patrons and loyal Friends.

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