

## News Release

16 January 2018

### **NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY AND ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS JOINTLY ACQUIRE TACITA DEAN'S 16 MM FILM PORTRAIT OF DAVID HOCKNEY**



*Portraits*, 2016 by Tacita Dean 16mm colour film, optical sound, 16 minutes, continuous loop Location photograph by Matthew Hale Courtesy the artist; Frith Street Gallery, London and Marian Goodman Gallery, New York/Paris;

The National Portrait Gallery and the Royal Academy of Arts have jointly acquired *Portraits*, Tacita Dean's 16 mm film portrait of internationally renowned British artist David Hockney, it was announced today 16 January 2018. The joint acquisition has been made possible with support from Art Fund.

The joint acquisition comes ahead of the unprecedented collaboration between the National Portrait Gallery, the Royal Academy of Arts, and National Gallery, which will see all three galleries open distinct exhibitions with the artist Tacita Dean in 2018. The three exhibitions, *Tacita Dean: LANDSCAPE, PORTRAIT, STILL LIFE*, shaped by Dean's response to the individual character of each institution, will explore genres traditionally associated with painting – landscape at the Royal Academy of Arts, portraiture at the National Portrait Gallery and still life at the National Gallery – seen through the contemporary prism of Dean's wide-ranging artistic practice.

*Portraits* (2016) provides an intimate portrayal of David Hockney and the everyday behaviours that drive his creative inspiration. The sixteen-minute colour film observes Hockney smoking five cigarettes and thinking about painting in his Los Angeles studio, surrounded by a series of portrait paintings that featured in his 2016 exhibition at the Royal

Academy; *82 Portraits and 1 Still-life*. For Hockney, smoking is embedded in his artistic practice as he meditatively takes drag after drag before the camera. The work will be shown in *Tacita Dean: PORTRAIT* at the National Portrait Gallery (15 March – 28 May 2018), alongside Dean's other portrait films of influential figures such as Merce Cunningham, Claes Oldenburg, Julie Mehretu, Mario Merz, Michael Hamburger and Cy Twombly. Following the exhibition it will be displayed in rotation with other collection works at the National Portrait Gallery and the Royal Academy, and will be available for loan to exhibitions elsewhere, including the Cartwright Hall Art Gallery in Hockney's home town of Bradford where it is hoped it will be shown later this year. When displayed at the Royal Academy, it will be on view as part of the new, free displays of art and architecture from the RA's Collections.

Tacita Dean (b.1965) is a British European artist based in Berlin and Los Angeles who works with many mediums but primarily in film. Dean first came to prominence in the 1990s and is now considered to be one of the most influential artists working today. She was elected a Royal Academician in 2008. As Adrian Searle wrote for the Kurt Schwitters Prize Jury statement, awarded to Dean in 2009: 'Dean's films, drawings and other works are extremely original. Her films express something that neither painting nor photography can capture. They are purely film. And while Dean can appreciate the past, her art avoids any kind of academic approach. Her art is carried by a sense of history, time and place, light quality and the essence of film itself. The focus of her subtle but ambitious work is the truth of the moment, the film as a medium and the sensibilities of the individual.'

David Hockney (b.1937) is considered to be one of the most popular and influential British artists of the second half of the twentieth century. Born in Bradford, Hockney studied at Bradford School of Art and then at the Royal College of Art, London, where he met artists including R.B. Kitaj, Allen Jones and Patrick Caulfield, and became an important contributor to the Pop Art movement in the 1960s. He was elected a Royal Academician in 1991 and has remained active throughout his life working in a variety of media such as painting, drawing, print, photography, collage, video and most recently iPhones and iPads.

*Portraits* is the first film work by a Royal Academician to enter the Royal Academy Collection. It is also the first portrait by Tacita Dean to be acquired by the National Portrait Gallery. The portrait was purchased for £57,440 with a contribution of £28,720 from Art Fund. It has also received support from The Deighton Family Foundation.

#### Quotes:

Dr Nicholas Cullinan, Director, National Portrait Gallery, London says: 'We are delighted to have jointly acquired Tacita Dean's *Portraits* with the Royal Academy of Arts, and are extremely grateful to Art Fund for their generous support, together with the support from The Deighton Family Foundation. This new acquisition will enable us to represent David Hockney's engagement with portraiture throughout his career in the Collection, and at the same time demonstrate Tacita Dean's own longstanding interest in the genre.'

Tim Marlow, Artistic Director, Royal Academy of Arts, says: 'The joint acquisition between the RA and the National Portrait Gallery underlines the truly collaborative nature of these three exhibitions. We are thrilled that Dean's portrait of David Hockney will enter the RA Collection, joining a superb range of portraits of artists by fellow artists, and continuing the theme of one Academician depicting another. In addition, the portrait was made while Hockney was preparing for his 2016 exhibition at the RA.'

Dr Stephen Deuchar, Art Fund Director, says: 'We're really pleased to have helped make the acquisition of *Portraits* possible, alongside our wider programme of support for the 250th anniversary of the RA. It's a mesmerising work of art.'

**-ENDS-**

#### **For further press information please contact:**

Laura McKeachan, Senior Communications Manager, National Portrait Gallery, Tel. 020 7321 6620,

[lmckechan@npg.org.uk](mailto:lmckechan@npg.org.uk)

Elena Davidson, Press Officer, Royal Academy of Arts, Tel 020 7300 5610 [elena.davidson@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:elena.davidson@royalacademy.org.uk)

### **Notes to Editors**

#### **About Tacita Dean**

Tacita Dean grew up near Canterbury, England, the granddaughter of Basil Dean, the theatre and film director and producer who founded Ealing Studios. She graduated from Falmouth School of Art in 1988 and after a scholarship year at the Supreme School of Fine Art in Athens, Greece, studied for a higher diploma degree in Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art (1990-1992). Dean was nominated for the Turner Prize in 1998 for her 16-minute 16mm colour film *Disappearance at Sea*; a work inspired by the story of Donald Crowhurst (1932–1969), who died tragically whilst attempting to be the first to sail alone non-stop around the globe. She has received a number of awards including the BT New Contemporaries Award, 1992; 2000-2001 DAAD scholarship in Berlin; the sixth Benesse Prize at the 51<sup>st</sup> Venice Biennale, 2005, and the Hugo Boss Prize at the Guggenheim Museum in 2006, which included her film *Kodak*, 2006 and the Kurt Schwitters Prize, Hanover in 2009. In 2007, Dean was elected into the Akademie der Künste in Berlin. In 2011, she was commissioned to create a unique artwork for the Tate Modern's Unilever Series in the Turbine Hall; Dean described the final piece, entitled *FILM*, as 'a portrait of film itself'. Dean's recent solo exhibitions include a major exhibition in 2016 at the Museo Tamayo, Mexico City; Instituto Moreira Salles, Rio de Janeiro, 2013; Botin Foundation, Santander, Spain, 2013, Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, 2013 and New Museum, New York, 2012. Her works are held in public collections worldwide including the Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Modern Art, New York, Musée d'art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris and Tate Modern, London. Dean is a founding member of [saveform.org](http://saveform.org). Future solo exhibitions in 2018 include Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh and Kunsthaus Bregenz.

#### ***Tacita Dean: PORTRAIT***

15 March - 28 May 2018 at the National Portrait Gallery, London

*National Portrait Gallery Spring Season 2018 sponsored by Herbert Smith Freehills LLP*

Tickets with donation: Full price £14 /Concessions £12.50

Tickets without donation: Full price £12 /Concessions £10.50

Free for Members and Patrons

[npg.org.uk/tacitadean](http://npg.org.uk/tacitadean)

#### **For further press information please contact:**

Laura McKechan, Senior Communications Manager, National Portrait Gallery, Tel. 020 7321 6620 (not for publication)/Email [lmckechan@npg.org.uk](mailto:lmckechan@npg.org.uk)

#### ***Tacita Dean: STILL LIFE***

15 March - 28 May 2018 at the National Gallery

Free Admission. Donations Welcome.

[nationalgallery.org.uk](http://nationalgallery.org.uk)

Exhibition supported by Christian Levett, and Miss Dasha Shenkman OBE.

Sponsored by Hiscox, Contemporary Art Partner of the National Gallery.

#### **For further press information please contact:**

David Edghill, Head of Marketing and Press, The National Gallery, Tel 020 7747 2840 (not for publication)  
[david.edghill@ng-london.org.uk](mailto:david.edghill@ng-london.org.uk)

#### ***Tacita Dean: LANDSCAPE***

19 May – 12 August 2018 at the Royal Academy of Arts

Supported by Art Fund, the Cockayne Foundation, The London Community Foundation  
Tickets £14.00 (£12.00 without Gift Aid donation). 50% off with National Art Pass.

[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

**For further press information please contact:**

Elena Davidson, Press Officer, Royal Academy of Arts, Tel 020 7300 5610 [elena.davidson@royalacademy.org.uk](mailto:elena.davidson@royalacademy.org.uk)