

PRESS RELEASE | LONDON | 2 MAY 2023

# AN EXHIBITION CELEBRATING THE CORONATION OF THEIR MAJESTIES

## KING CHARLES III & QUEEN CAMILLA

Specially commissioned drawings on view at Christie's, King Street

2<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023



**Christabel MacGreevy** *The Lion & The Unicorn, May 2023*  
charcoal, pastel and gouache with collage on paper, 62 x 73cm  
**Limited Edition Giclée Print:** Edition of 50, A2 paper size (420 x 595mm)  
printed on 310gsm Hahnemühle German Etching, £230 per print

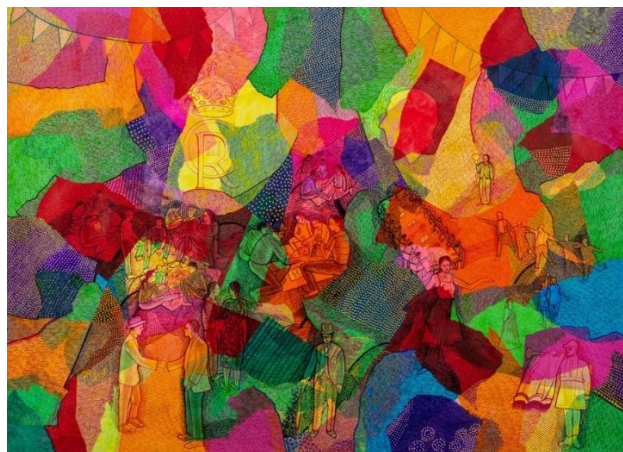
To mark the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III & Queen Camilla, the Royal Drawing School has commissioned alumni artists of its flagship postgraduate-level programme, The Drawing Year, to create works that are personal reflections on this momentous occasion, to be exhibited at Christie's, King Street.

The exhibition offers a variety of perspectives, rich in observation, imagination and storytelling. These commissioned works on paper are exhibited alongside a selection of over 50 drawings by fellow Drawing Year alumni that form part of His Majesty's archive of drawings from the School. Upon graduation, one drawing is chosen from each student to be included in the archive as a record of their study. There are now over 500 drawings in the archive.

The exhibition will also feature a work by Royal Drawing School alumna Shana P Lohrey. Originally commissioned for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, it was then given as a present to His Majesty in 2022. The drawing evokes the pomp and pageantry of the Queen's Coronation in 1953.

Five of the commissioned works are available to buy as limited-edition prints with a portion of the proceeds from these, and the original artworks, being used by The Royal Drawing School to contribute to [The Drawing Year Scholarship Fund](#). Original works and limited edition prints can be purchased online [here](#) or by emailing [development@royaldrawingschool.org](mailto:development@royaldrawingschool.org).

## ROYAL DRAWING SCHOOL IMAGE SHEET



**Arjuna Gunaratne**

*Joyous Celebration* (2023)

pen and ink on paper

90 x 120cm

**Limited Edition Giclée Print:**

Edition of 50, A1 paper size (595 x 841mm)

printed on 310gsm Hahnemühle German Etching

£350 per print



**Sophie Charalambous**

*The Pearly Kings and Queens Pageant* (2023)

pen, ink and watercolour on khaki paper

56 x 76cm

**Limited Edition Giclée Print:**

Edition of 50, A2 paper size (420 x 595mm)

printed on 310gsm Hahnemühle German Etching

£230 per print



**Christopher Green**

*Westminster Abbey, The Spring Coronation* (2023)

ink on paper

163 x 207cm

**Limited Edition Giclée Print:**

Edition of 50, A1 paper size (595 x 841mm)

printed on 310gsm Hahnemühle German Etching

£350 per print



**Christopher Green**

*Westminster Abbey, Anointing The King* (2023)

ink on paper

95 x 135cm

**Limited Edition Giclée Print:**

Edition of 50, A2 paper size (420 x 595mm)

printed on 310gsm Hahnemühle German Etching

£230 per print

## ROYAL DRAWING SCHOOL APPENDIX ARTIST'S STATEMENTS

**Arjuna Gunarathne**, Royal Drawing School alumni 2018

*"My work combines Western and Eastern disciplines with traditional and contemporary practices and materials. I am inspired by the community that I live in - London is a cosmopolitan city; people communicate and celebrate with each other in many ways. I have seen and experienced how people celebrated royal jubilees and weddings over the past two decades in London. From picnics to street parties, decorations on the roads, food and souvenirs in shops and TV programmes at home. I have recalled these experiences in Joyous Celebration."*

**Sophie Charalambous**, Royal Drawing School alumni 2009

*"The Pearly Kings and Queens Pageant is a reimagining of a large watercolour I made in 2015, which was inspired by the Harvest Festival celebrations at St Paul's Church Covent Garden where the Pearlys gather and raise money for charity every year. They are a folk tradition of London and "alternative" East End royalty. I love their aesthetic, the black and white costumes, which are handmade and personalised. I like the feeling of tradition, pageantry and occasion. They will certainly be celebrating the coronation."*

**Christopher Green**, Royal Drawing School alumni 2008

*"The Abbey north door and rose window revealed by the trees in winter was my inspiration for this drawing. A raised patch of grass outside the Supreme Court offered a secure vantage point, with a good feeling of space. I worked here every day the weather allowed over three months."*

**Christabel MacGreevy**, Royal Drawing School alumni 2017

*"To mark the coronation, I started to think about iconography associated with the history of England, and this led me to heraldic banners and motifs that have been used throughout the centuries. The inspiration for this piece is the iconic lion and unicorn motif; it is my own version of this antique symbol. With an oak tree behind it, a symbol of pastoral England and characteristic of longevity, strength, stability and endurance, this is surely correct for this changing of eras."*

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

**Title:** Celebrating the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III & Queen Camilla

**Dates:** 2 – 25 May 2023

**Address:** Duke Street Gallery at Christie's, 8 King St, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT

**Opening hours:** Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm / Saturday 12 – 5pm

**Press images:** [Press images](#)

**Exhibition Website:** [www.royaldrawingschoolexhibits.org](http://www.royaldrawingschoolexhibits.org)

**RDS Website:** [www.royaldrawingschool.org](http://www.royaldrawingschool.org)

**Twitter:** @RoyalDrawing

**Instagram:** @RoyalDrawingSchool

**Facebook:** @RoyalDrawingSchool

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**Arjuna Gunarathne**, Royal Drawing School alumni 2018

Arjuna Gunarathne was born in Sri Lanka in 1976 and is a visual artist who lives and works in London. His art practice uses drawing and painting, where he combines spontaneous expressions of his private, personal worlds with cultural and social experiences. In his art works, he presents the ongoing journey of his life through an intimate engagement with vigorous colours, textures and forms.

**Sophie Charalambous**, Royal Drawing School alumni 2009

Sophie Charalambous is a London-based visual artist, working primarily on paper between drawing, watercolour and mono-printing. In recent years she has been exploring imagery around her Greek Cypriot/British heritage inspired by flora and fauna, folk art, ancient history and festivals as well as the landscape of the Mediterranean and the UK. Sophie won the

Jerwood Printmaking Today Prize 2020 and the Sunday Times Watercolour Prize 2018. She exhibits regularly and has work in both public and private collections in the UK and internationally.

### **Christopher Green, Royal Drawing School alumni 2008**

Christopher Green lives and works in London. His practice involves drawing directly from observation, usually out and about in the city. He creates large drawings over a long period of time, when a spot in a park or by the river becomes like an outdoor studio. It is his way of being somewhere and feeling connected, looking for relationships between things in brush and ink or pencil on paper. Christopher has been the recipient of awards including the Lynn Painter-Stainers Prize (First Prize), exhibits regularly in group and solo shows and has completed a number of commissions.

### **Christabel MacGreevy, Royal Drawing School alumni 2017**

Christabel MacGreevy is an interdisciplinary artist concerned with archetypes, communication and memory, explored through the interplay of the personal and universal. She studied Fine Art at Central Saint Martins, London and Ecole de Beaux Arts, Paris before completing her postgraduate diploma from The Royal Drawing School. Working in paint, ceramics, sculpture, and textiles, with a practice that centers in drawing, MacGreevy considers the concept of performance and ritual to be present in her drawing practice.

**The Royal Drawing School** is one of the world's leading providers of specialist observational drawing tuition. Established in 2000 by the former Prince of Wales, now His Majesty King Charles III, and artist Catherine Goodman, the School's mission is to raise the profile of observational drawing through teaching and practise. It offers experiential, skills-based teaching, with a specialist faculty of over 90 practicing artists teaching more than 1,000 people each week, of all ages, career and educational stages, and creative disciplines. Through its scholarship programmes and concessions scheme the School aims to remove financial and social barriers, making high quality art education available to all. The Drawing Year offers 30 early-career artists the opportunity to study observational drawing for 15 months, on fully-funded scholarship places. In addition, the School runs a Young Artists Programme for 10-18 year-olds, a Public Programme of online and studio-based drawing courses for adults and an International Residencies Programme with artist residencies in the USA, Italy, India, Jamaica, Antigua, Scotland and Wales.

**The Drawing Year** offers 30 artists the opportunity to focus on drawing for over a year, approaching drawing from observation both as an end in itself, and in relation to their existing practice and other media. There are no fees and each student receives a free studio space, to enable students from any background to access high quality tuition and resources in drawing from observation, as part of the School's charitable mission. Alumni of The Drawing Year continue to successful careers as contemporary practising artists. Past students have won high profile awards such as the John Moores Painting Prize, BP Portrait Award prizes, Jerwood Drawing Prize. Their work has been exhibition and collected by world-class galleries and museums such as the British Museum, Royal Academy and National Gallery.

### **About Christie's**

- Founded in 1766, Christie's is a world-leading art and luxury business. Renowned and trusted for its expert live and online auctions, as well as its bespoke private sales, Christie's offers a full portfolio of [global services](#) to its clients, including art appraisal, art financing, international real estate and education. Christie's has a physical presence in 46 countries, throughout the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship [international sales hubs](#) in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris and Geneva. It also is the only international auction house authorized to hold sales in mainland China (Shanghai).
- Christie's [auctions](#) span more than [80 art and luxury categories](#), at price points ranging from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's has sold 8 of the 10 most important single-owner collections in history, including the [Paul G. Allen Collection](#)—the most valuable collection ever offered at auction (November 2022). In recent years, Christie's also achieved the world record price for an artwork at auction ([Leonardo da Vinci's \*Salvator Mundi\*](#), 2017), for a 20th century artwork ([Andy Warhol's \*Shot Sage Blue Marilyn\*](#), 2022) and for a work by a living artist ([Jeff Koons' \*Rabbit\*](#), 2019). Christie's [Private Sales](#) offers a seamless service for buying and selling art, jewellery and watches outside of the auction calendar, working exclusively with Christie's specialists at a client's individual pace.
- Following the groundbreaking 2021 sale of the first digital art NFT ever offered by a global auction house ([Beeple's \*Everydays\*](#)), Christie's recently launched the first [fully on-chain auction platform](#) dedicated to exceptional NFT art. As an industry leader in digital innovation, Christie's also continues to pioneer new technologies that are redefining the business of art, including the use of hologram technology to tour life-size 3D objects around the world, and the creation of viewing and bidding experiences that integrate augmented reality, global livestreaming, buy-now channels, and hybrid sales formats.
- Christie's is dedicated to advancing [responsible culture](#) throughout its business and communities worldwide, including achieving sustainability by reducing our carbon emissions by 50% and pledging to be net zero by 2030, and actively using its platform in the art world to amplify under-represented voices and support positive change.
- Browse, bid, [discover](#), and join us for the best of art and luxury at: [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com) or by downloading Christie's apps.

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*\*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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