

RWS NOW

7 – 21 June 2023

Open Tuesday – Saturday 11am – 5pm

Free Admission

RWS Gallery

3 – 5 Whitcomb Street

London WC2H 7HA

RWS NOW is an art exhibition celebrating a new chapter for the Royal Watercolour Society as they return to a gallery they once occupied 200 years ago, with a new 250 year peppercorn lease.

After almost 10 years of planning, negotiations, renovation works, covid delays and a soft opening, the brand new RWS Gallery at Whitcomb Street, just off Trafalgar Square, is finally opening its doors with the first exhibition of Members' works.

To commemorate this momentous occasion in the history of the RWS, artist members will be coming together to showcase their finest works in water-based media in an exhibition that promises to inspire and promote the concept that art is for everyone.

About the Whitcomb Street Project

In 2015 the RWS were approached by the developer Hobhouse, who were looking for an arts related charity to occupy part of a building in Whitcomb Street, just off Trafalgar Square. Their research had found that Pall Mall East where the Society had shown their paintings so many years ago in the 19th Century, was in the same building.



One in a series of drawings produced by Julia Midgley RWS during the RWS Gallery construction work in 2019

The RWS were delighted to accept the developer's generous offer to return to Whitcomb Street on a 250 year peppercorn lease and occupy part of the building there once again, almost 200 years since they were first offered a lease there in 1823. Fundraising efforts began and still continue with the aim of raising money towards the renovation and fit-out of the gallery spaces and historic vaults, which will hopefully come to house the Society's large Collection of artworks.

The RWS enlisted the help of architect Chris Wilkinson RA, who sadly passed away in 2021, and his firm WilkinsonEyre who were instrumental in providing a vision for the space which will complement the RWS' existing home at Bankside Gallery.

The project and building work was documented extensively in the form of a series of drawings produced by RWS Member Julia Midgley who specialises in reportage. The resulting artworks will be displayed in the vaults during the RWS NOW exhibition, the location where many of them were produced.

About the Royal Watercolour Society

The Royal Watercolour Society (RWS) was founded in 1804 and is the oldest and most prestigious watercolour society in the world. Past Members include Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, E.R. Hughes, William Hunt, and John Singer Sargent. The RWS is an artist-led society made up of an elected Membership who are amongst the finest practitioners in contemporary water-based painting. Their artists work in a variety of media including gouache, acrylic, pen & ink, pigment, collage, mixed media as well as traditional watercolour. The aim of the Society is to promote, by example and education, the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of these exciting media.

Images & Links

Images for media use can be downloaded via dropbox [here](#).

royalwatercoloursociety.com

Instagram: [@royalwatercoloursociety](https://www.instagram.com/royalwatercoloursociety)

For further information, interviews and images please contact Fay Brown, fb@rwsgallery.co.uk



The brand new RWS Gallery sign on the frontage of the building at 3 Whitcomb Street