

"IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST": Art, the Sun king, and the Academic Revolution

The Academie Royale de peinture et de Sculpture was founded in 1648 under Louis XIV of France, the "Sun King", and placed the visual arts under direct royal control.

This lecture looks at the Academy's origins, its philosophy under its director Charles le Brun, and its development into the most influential art institution in Europe.

It follows how the Academy reinvented itself after the Revolution, and how artists rebelled against its official proscriptions for "great art" – culminating in the Impressionists' attempts to break the monopoly of the official, statesanctioned Salon exhibitions.



RICHARD WHINCOP Artist, Designer, Lecturer

Richard is a professional artist whose combination of knowledge and practical experience gives him a unique perspective on Art History.

Graduating in English and Art History from York University in 1986, from 1989-1995 he lectured in the adult education departments of Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities.

In 1997 he became a full-time figurative artist, executing large-scale public commissions, and exhibiting in galleries and art fairs throughout the UK.

He is now based in Chichester, West Sussex, where he practices as an artist, designer and lecturer.



