SOTHEBY’S GETS THE ROYAL TREATMENT
WITH A MONTH-LONG PROGRAMME OF EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS & AUCTIONS
TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Showcase of Royal Portraits from Across the Land
Led by Iconic Armada Portrait of Queen Elizabeth I on Loan from The Woburn Abbey Collection
& Warhol Painting of Queen Elizabeth II

A Panoply of Legendary Aristocratic Tiaras with British & European Royal Provenance

Chatsworth Estate Collaboration with Sotheby’s New Bond Street Restaurant

Arts Festival Celebrating Creativity & the Next Generation of British Talent
With Speakers Including Dame Joanna Lumley, Sir Michael Morpurgo & Dr Tristram Hunt

Culminating in “British Art: The Jubilee Auction”
A Cross-Category Sale Dedicated to the Best of British in June

“Britain has long been known for its creativity and The Queen has been at the helm of this throughout her reign – both as custodian of a world-class collection, and the inspiration for artists, designers and more. This year, Her Majesty will become the first British Monarch to celebrate seventy years of service, the perfect opportunity for Sotheby’s, with our unique position at the helm of both art and luxury, to celebrate creativity in all its forms - art, music, literature, food, fashion and performing arts.”

Frances Christie, Deputy Chairman, Sotheby’s UK and Ireland
Her Majesty the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in June represents a momentous cultural moment in celebration of her 70 years on the throne. Alongside being honoured partners of The Platinum Jubilee Pageant, Sotheby’s will present a month-long programme of exhibitions and events marking this joyous national milestone, which will complement our traditional fine art marquee auctions this Summer.

Spanning the visual, performing, literary and culinary arts, and providing a platform for the next generation of artists, the Jubilee season will showcase the breadth, diversity and excellence of British creativity. The galleries will be taken over by specially curated exhibitions of royal portraits, rare aristocratic jewels and important manuscripts, including works loaned from prestigious private collections from 28 May–15 June. Alongside the exhibitions, visitors will be welcomed to a diverse programme of talks, debates and musical and dramatic performances. These will center around the themes of arts and creativity, history and youth and future.

**Coinciding with the Jubilee, Sotheby’s will also hold “British Art: The Jubilee Auction” on 29 June – a sale dedicated to the very best of British art, from the Old Masters, through 20th-century giants to some of the greatest living artists still working today.** As part of Sotheby’s support of the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, the sale will include a new unique work of The Queen donated by Chris Levine, proceeds from which will benefit the Pageant. *Further details on the auction highlights to be announced in due course.*

As part of the programming, Sotheby’s is partnering with a number of Britain’s heritage brands and institutions each of whom will add their own stamp to the activities. Among them Chatsworth, home to the Devonshire family, who will be collaborating with Sotheby’s Restaurant, where the Jubilee menus will feature Chatsworth estate-reared lamb, fresh produce from the Chatsworth kitchen gardens, Chatsworth Gin cocktails and a range of locally-sourced ingredients from across the Derbyshire Dales.

Sotheby’s Jubilee celebrations and British Art auction will be presented in partnership with ultra-luxury performance car manufacturer Aston Martin. Founded in 1913, Royal Warrant holder Aston Martin has been at the heart of British design throughout the Queen’s reign and fuses the latest technology, time-honoured craftsmanship and beautiful styling to produce a range of critically acclaimed luxury models. The partnership with Sotheby’s will celebrate Aston Martin’s 109 years of British design and engineering mastery.

**POWER & IMAGE: ROYAL PORTRAITURE & ICONOGRAPHY**

For the last 500 years, royal portraiture has been a long-held tradition, allowing monarchs to present the image they wanted their subjects to perceive. Each captivating portrait tells the story of the sitter, whilst also providing an insight into the relationship between artists and patrons. This exhibition of portraits loaned from important country houses across the United Kingdom will present likenesses from the larger-than-life Tudors – the dynasty that first brought this art of the image to the fore – through to the modern portrayals of the present-day royals.

The exhibition will showcase portraits of each of the seven queens regnant of Britain, led by the iconic Armada Portrait of Elizabeth I, on loan from the Woburn Abbey collection. The famous painting commemorates the most decisive moment of Elizabeth I’s reign, the failed invasion of England by the Spanish Armada in 1588. The most
complete of three versions painted in that same year, the painting encapsulates the aspirations of the nation at a watershed moment in history whilst also carefully disseminating an awe-inspiring spectacle of female power and majesty. The world-famous collection at Woburn Abbey is one of the finest in private hands – including masterpieces by Rubens, Van Dyck, Canaletto, Reynolds, Gainsborough and Rembrandt.

From Queen Elizabeth I, to her namesake Queen Elizabeth II, is a richly-coloured portrait by Andy Warhol from the 1980s that is in equal parts glamorous and commanding; perfectly representing the global and ‘celebrity’ age in which she has reigned. The source image for the work is the official photographic portrait taken in The Queen’s Silver Jubilee year a decade prior, reinterpreted in an intensely vibrant palette by the artist as part of a series titled ‘Reigning Queens’.

Also featuring in the exhibition will be important portraits of Mary Queen of Scots, Queen Victoria, Queen Anne, Mary I and Mary II, lent from aristocratic and other distinguished British collections.

Sotheby’s will also present a selection of books and manuscripts, all with royal provenance and history. Among the highlights is the death warrant of the 7th Earl of Northumberland, signed by Elizabeth I and sealed with her privy seal, which is being loaned from Alnwick Castle, the seat of the 12th Duke of Northumberland. Dating to 20 July 1572, the letter draws up writs and instructions necessary for the execution of the 7th Earl after his part in the disastrous ‘Rising of the North’.

A group of three splendid royal bindings for Elizabeth I, Queen Anne, and Elizabeth II, will be on view from Wormsley Library, which houses one of the finest private collections of beautifully bound books and literature in the world. These include Archbishop Parker’s binding for Elizabeth I with her crest on the cover, a spectacular embroidered bible in silver and gold threads with Queen Anne’s crowned initials to the cover and a finely bound Coronation Bible for Elizabeth II, being one of 25 special copies, of the bible used at the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953.

ARISTOCRATIC TIARAS

A non-selling exhibition of noble and aristocratic jewels will present tiaras with British and European royal provenance. It will chart the history of this most stately jewellery format since the late 18th century, when it was exalted to courtly fashion by Napoleon Bonaparte and Empress Joséphine, in emulation of ancient Greek and Roman wearers. Prince Albert advanced this trend, as part of his wider interest in the art and engineering of jewellery making, by designing four tiaras for Queen Victoria. The tiaras on view will follow the evolution in designs prompted by monarchical taste, societal and economic shifts and influence from other art forms, through to contemporary jewellers redefining tiaras today.
Starring among these is a diamond tiara from the 1830s, designed as a wreath of diamond-set leaves in homage to the classical designs of ancient Rome and directly influenced by the revival of this symmetrical style during Napoléon’s rule. Heading into the 20th century, is an exquisite turquoise cabochon and diamond tiara by Van Cleef & Arpels, crafted in the 1960s at the peak of the West’s fascination for Indian culture and jewellery design. Further highlights include an impressive diamond tiara from the 1880s, comprised of ornate scrollwork and foliate detailing, and another from the early 20th century, designed as a series of graduated scrolling, openwork stylised ribbon heart motifs.

If visitors are tempted by the glittering sights, there is an option to purchase tiaras from a new generation of contemporary British designers.

Separate press release to follow.

JUBILEE ARTS FESTIVAL

Coinciding with the exhibitions, Sotheby’s London will also open its doors to a series of events, from daily dramatic readings and talks, to musical performances and book launches, by a diverse range of figures advancing and reinterpreting Britain’s treasured cultural legacy, offering something for all to enjoy.

Throughout the Arts Festival, Sotheby’s is thrilled to support next generation talent. Recent graduates from RADA – one of the oldest and most illustrious drama schools in the United Kingdom, with patronage from Queen Elizabeth II – will bring the art to life through an immersive series of stories, performance, and readings from Elizabeth I to the present day. Elsewhere poet Theresa Lola will host a writing workshop for young people aged 14-19 on poems to spectacularly introduce oneself to the world. Further highlights include musical performances from the Fantasia Orchestra, a group of elite young musicians formed by Tom Fetherstonhaugh.

Key Dates for the Diary

Saturday 28 May & Sunday 29 May – Queens Weekend
Opening the Festival, the Queens Weekend will celebrate the historical significance of the Platinum Jubilee by exploring the women who have, since the Tudor period, served as custodians of our cultural legacy.

• A debate on the battle of queens “Queen Elizabeth I vs Queen Victoria”, with Daisy Goodwin, writer of the ITV series Victoria, and celebrated historian Kate Maltby.
• Historian Andrew Roberts speaking on The Queen and her Prime Ministers.
• Historian Dr Amanda Foreman and Desmond Shawe Taylor, former Surveyor of the Queens Pictures, in conversation on royal portraiture and the Royal Collection.

Monday 30 May – Royal Biographers
Dame Joanna Lumley DBE and renowned writer and broadcaster Robert Hardman – both recent biographers of the Queen – exploring the life and work of Britain’s longest reigning monarch.

Saturday 4 June – Family Day
To cultivate the imagination of younger visitors, Family Day offers the chance to connect with leading children’s authors and poets.

• Michael Morpurgo reading his new Jubilee themed book There Once Is A Queen.
• Battle of the Bears: Winnie the Pooh vs Paddington debate.
• Musical workshop with members of Fantasia Orchestra.
• The Royal Trail: a treasure hunt in the New Bond Street galleries.

Thursday 9 June – In Conversation
Caroline Campbell, Director of Collections & Research at the National Gallery, and art critic Martin Gayford, on great British artists, using Lucian Freud as a starting point to celebrate British creativity.

Friday 10 June – “Friday Late”
An after-hours opening of the galleries to celebrate the best of British Creativity with an evening of workshops, performances, DJ and a bar.

Monday 13 June – Artist Talk
Turner Prize winning artist and curator Lubaina Himid in conversation with the historian Griselda Pollock on her work.

Tuesday 14 June – Artist Talk
Body as Vessel: Dame Magdalene Odundo in conversation with Tristram Hunt, Director of the Victoria & Albert Museum.

For more information on how to sign up to events, go to: www.sothebys.com/jubileefestival

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Sotheby’s:
Established in 1744, Sotheby’s is the world’s premier destination for art and luxury. Sotheby’s promotes access, connoisseurship and preservation of fine art and rare objects through auctions and buy-now channels including private sales, e-commerce and retail. Our trusted global marketplace is supported by an industry-leading technology platform and a network of specialists spanning 40 countries and 50 categories, which include Contemporary Art, Modern and Impressionist Art, Old Masters, Chinese Works of Art, Jewelry, Watches, Wine and Spirits, and Interiors, among many others.

Images are available upon request
Stream live auctions and place bids in real time, discover the value of a work of art, browse sale catalogues, view original content and more at sothebys.com, and by downloading Sotheby’s app for iOS and Android.

About Aston Martin Lagonda:
Aston Martin’s vision is to be the world’s most desirable, ultra-luxury British brand, creating the most exquisitely addictive performance cars.

Founded in 1913 by Lionel Martin and Robert Bamford, Aston Martin is acknowledged as an iconic global brand synonymous with style, luxury, performance, and exclusivity. Aston Martin fuses the latest technology, time honoured
craftsmanship and beautiful styling to produce a range of critically acclaimed luxury models including the Vantage, DB11, DBS, DBX and its first hypercar, the Aston Martin Valkyrie.

Based in Gaydon, England, Aston Martin Lagonda designs, creates and exports cars which are sold in 56 countries around the world. Its sports cars are manufactured in Gaydon with its luxury DBX SUV range proudly manufactured in St Athan, Wales.

Lagonda was founded in 1899 and Aston Martin in 1913. The two brands came together in 1947 when both were purchased by the late Sir David Brown, and the company is now listed on the London Stock Exchange as Aston Martin Lagonda Global Holdings plc.

2020 saw Lawrence Stroll become the company’s Executive Chairman, alongside significant new investment, a move that led to Aston Martin’s return to the pinnacle of motorsport with the Aston Martin Aramco Cognizant Formula One™ Team and commenced new era for the iconic British marque.

www.astonmartin.com/media

About RADA:
The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), established in 1904, is a world-renowned centre of excellence, offering vocational training in both acting and technical theatre production disciplines. RADA provides exceptional teaching and training, tailored to the needs of each student. In addition, the Academy creates opportunities for a wider community to engage with its training, through its short courses and access and participation work.

With strong links to the wider performing arts industries, RADA has an impressive track record of graduate employment in theatre, film, television and radio. Among its alumni are award-winners and leaders in their fields: actors, directors, writers, producers, lighting, sound and costume designers, prop makers, scenic artists, stage managers, production managers and many more.

For further information please visit www.rada.ac.uk

About Chatsworth House:
Chatsworth is home to the Devonshire family, and has been passed down through 16 generations. Chatsworth comprises a Grade I listed house and stables, a 105-acre garden, a 1,822-acre park and The Devonshire Collection, one of Europe’s most significant art collections. Chatsworth is also a thriving cultural destination, a nationally significant historic landscape, and a working estate that operates with a mindful approach to the environment and sustainability. The house, much of its contents, the garden and surrounding park are leased to the Chatsworth House Trust, a registered charity established in 1981 for the long-term preservation of the house, its art collection, garden, woodlands and park, for the benefit of everyone. Sotheby’s has been a long-term supporter of the Chatsworth House Trust as their Art & Exhibition Partner.

About Woburn Abbey:
Woburn Abbey is currently undergoing its biggest refurbishment since it first opened to the public. During the closure, the fabulous art collections will be conserved further, so that they are preserved for future generations, and renewed interpretation of the fascinating stories associated with them will be facilitated.

Renovations of the historic family home also provide the opportunity for The Duke and Duchess of Bedford to share some of Woburn’s Treasures with a wider audience so that they can continue to be enjoyed in a different context with new narratives.

For further details of the refurbishment, please see www.woburn.co.uk

About Wormsley:
Sir Paul Getty spent 25 years assembling one of the finest private collections of books and manuscripts in the world. When he moved to Wormsley, he commissioned the building of the castellated Library, as an extension of the main house.
The Estate continues to invest in this outstanding collection – which features the first edition of Caxton’s printing of The Canterbury Tales, Anne Boleyn’s Psalter and the first folio of Shakespeare’s “Comedies, Histories and Tragedies”. Other highlights include manuscripts dating from the 12th to the 15th Century, important Bibles and extraordinary modern bindings.

The Library is opened for a very small number of private curated tours each year and also makes for a historic location for exclusive meetings, seminars and gatherings.

https://wormsley.com/about/

About Fantasia Orchestra:
Founded in 2016 by conductor Tom Fetherstonhaugh, Fantasia Orchestra is formed of some of the country’s most exciting young musicians. The orchestra’s thrilling and varied concerts showcase classical and contemporary music-making of the highest level. Their performances have drawn great acclaim, with Fantasia’s recent concerts being described as ‘the most directly emotional music to be experienced live post-lockdown’. The orchestra has collaborated with some of the country’s leading soloists, including Jess Gillam, Thomas Gould, Isata Kanneh-Mason, Sheku Kanneh-Mason, and Tasmin Little.

About the Platinum Jubilee Pageant:
The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Pageant will take place on Sunday 5th June 2022, processing along The Mall and surrounding streets in celebration of The Queen’s 70-year reign. The organising company, The Platinum Jubilee Pageant, has commissioned artists and communities from around the country and Commonwealth including military personnel, performers, key workers and volunteers from across the UK, who will come together to tell the story of The Queen’s 70-year reign and our transforming society. The Platinum Jubilee Pageant Company is co-chaired by Sir Michael Lockett KCVO and Nicholas Coleridge CBE. The CEO is Rosanna Machado and Pageant Master is Adrian Evans.

For further information about the Platinum Jubilee Pageant, please contact Shephard Communications - Platinumjubilee@shephardcommunications.com.

Imagery and other downloadable content is available at the Media Hub. Password: PlatinumJubilee.