



VISIONS OF THE SELF: REMBRANDT AND NOW

Opening reception: Thursday, April 11, 6–8pm
April 12–May 18, 2019
20 Grosvenor Hill, London

In partnership with



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Self-Portrait with Two Circles*, c. 1665, oil on canvas, 45 × 37 inches (114.3 × 94 cm), English Heritage, The Iveagh Bequest (Kenwood, London). Photo © Historic England Photo Library

March 11, 2019

Kenwood's Rembrandt masterpiece to go on view at Gagolian in partnership with English Heritage

Exhibition includes self-portraits by Picasso, Bacon, Freud, and Basquiat alongside contemporary artists including Baselitz, Prince, and Saville

Rembrandt's masterpiece *Self-Portrait with Two Circles* (c. 1665) will go on view at Gagolian Grosvenor Hill, heralding a new alliance between the international gallery and English Heritage—the charity entrusted with the care of this painting and more than 500,000 other paintings and artifacts, together with more than 400 historic sites across England.

Rembrandt's legendary painting will be the centerpiece of an exhibition of self-portraits that will also include works by Francis Bacon, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Lucian Freud, and Pablo Picasso, as well as leading contemporary artists such as Georg Baselitz, Glenn Brown, Urs Fischer, Damien Hirst, Howard Hodgkin, Giuseppe Penone, Richard Prince, Cindy Sherman, and Rudolf Stingel, among others. A new work created by Jenny Saville in response to Rembrandt's self-portrait will be revealed for the first time.

The partnership between Gagosian and English Heritage, which will be launched with this exhibition, will entail the gallery supporting the charity and its sites, artworks, and artifacts—including Kenwood, the home of Rembrandt's self-portrait in the north of London. To begin, Gagosian will support the conservation of the painting's eighteenth-century wooden frame. Other future events between the two organizations are in the planning stages.

Anna Eavis, Curatorial Director at English Heritage, comments: "Working with Gagosian will allow us to create exciting juxtapositions between our collections and the gallery's modern and contemporary program. We're delighted to be starting with Rembrandt's *Self-Portrait with Two Circles*, which usually hangs at Kenwood. It's one of the world's great paintings and, despite its considerable age, a work of extraordinary modernity."

After Gagosian, *Self-Portrait with Two Circles* will return to Kenwood. In October of this year, the painting will be the focus of a special new display, timed to coincide with the 350th anniversary of Rembrandt's death.

Painted when Rembrandt was about sixty years of age, *Self-Portrait with Two Circles* is considered to be the artist's greatest late self-portrait. Rembrandt depicted himself in his studio, wearing a white linen cap and holding his brushes, palette, and maulstick. One of his largest and most ambitious self-portraits, the painting has prompted much speculative interpretation about aspects such as the enigma of the circles in the background that inform the title. Confident and masterful, brooding and anxious, *Self-Portrait with Two Circles* is a masterpiece of compelling ambiguity. Edward Cecil Guinness, the first Earl of Iveagh, purchased the painting in 1888; later he gave it to the British nation, along with sixty-two other exceptional paintings and the Kenwood Estate. Since 1986, Kenwood and its collections have been in the care of English Heritage. In accordance with the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood is open and free to the public.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, with a text by David Freedberg.

Visions of the Self: Rembrandt and Now will be on view at Gagosian Grosvenor Hill from April 12 to May 18, 2019. Entry is free.

Notes to Editors:

English Heritage cares for more than 400 historic buildings, monuments, and sites—including world-famous prehistoric sites, grand medieval castles, Roman forts on the edge of the empire, and a Cold War bunker. Through these, history is brought to life for over ten million people each year. Registered charity no. 1140351. For more information, please visit www.english-heritage.org.uk.

Gagosian was established in 1980 in Los Angeles by Larry Gagosian. For thirty-eight years the gallery has presented an unparalleled exhibition program featuring the world's leading modern and contemporary artists. The exhibitions, which have placed Gagosian at the forefront of contemporary art, are accompanied by scholarly catalogues and artist monographs, as well as a quarterly magazine.

#RembrandtAndNow

Press

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