ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

Charter 2021

Approved by Council by Special Resolution 26.01.21 Approved by Privy Council 26.5.21 Effective from 1.11.21

Charter

ELIZABETH THE SECOND by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

WHEREAS an humble Petition has been presented unto Us praying that We should grant a Charter to The Royal College of Art (hereinafter called "the existing College") which was incorporated as a Company limited by guarantee under the Companies Act, 1948, on the thirteenth day of February in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and fifty-one with such provisions in that behalf as shall seem to Us right and suitable: AND WHEREAS We have taken the said Petition into Our Royal Consideration and are minded to accede thereto:

NOW THEREFORE Know Ye that We by virtue of Our Prerogative Royal and of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have willed and ordained and by these Presents do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors will and ordain as follows:-

- 1. This Charter constitutes the College as one Body Politic and Corporate with perpetual succession and a Common Seal by the name and style of "The Royal College of Art" ("the College").
- 2. The objects of the College shall be to advance learning, knowledge and professional competence particularly in the field of fine arts, in the principles and practice of art and design in their relation to industrial and commercial processes and social developments and other subjects relating thereto through teaching, research and collaboration with industry and commerce ("the Objects").
- 3. The College shall be a teaching, a research and an examining body and shall, have all the powers of a natural person including but not limited to the following powers, in furtherance of the Objects and so far as permitted by charity law:
 - i) To award degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions of the College and to withdraw such awards.
 - ii) To confer honorary Degrees and other distinctions on approved persons.
 - iii) To cooperate with other institutions and individuals for purposes as the College may from time to time determine and to award joint degrees or other joint awards.
 - iv) To enter into any agreement for the incorporation within the College of any other institution and for taking over its rights, property and liabilities and staff.
 - v) To institute and award Fellowships, Scholarships, Studentships, Exhibitions, Bursaries and Prizes and other aids to study and research.

- vi) To borrow and raise money and give security for loans; and for those purposes the College shall have the authority to enter into any financial instrument which is ancillary or incidental to the exercise of such powers.
- vii) To demand and receive fees, to take such steps as may from time to time be deemed appropriate for the purpose of procuring contributions to the funds of the College and to raise money in such other manner as the College may deem fit.
- viii) To act as trustee or manager of any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gifts.
- ix) To invest.
- x) To give guarantees.
- xi) To do all such other acts and things whether incidental to these powers or not as may be in order to further the Objects.
- 4. There shall be a Visitor of the College who shall be appointed from time to time by the Council and who shall have the right from time to time and in such manner as they shall think fit to direct an investigation into the internal affairs of the College.
- 5. There shall be a Chancellor of the College who shall be the titular head of the College and shall preside over Convocation and confer degrees.
- 6. There shall be a Pro-Chancellor of the College who shall, in the absence of the Chancellor or during a vacancy in the office of the Chancellor exercise all the functions of the Chancellor including conferring degrees and shall be ex officio the Chair for the time being of the Council referred to in Article 9 of this Our Charter.
- 7. There shall be a Vice-Chancellor of the College who shall be the principal Academic and Administrative Officer of the College and ex officio Chair of the Senate and shall in the absence of the Chancellor or during a vacancy in the office of the Chancellor confer degrees.
- 8. There shall be a Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of the College who shall, in the absence of the Vice-Chancellor or during a vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chancellor perform the functions and duties of the Vice-Chancellor.
- 9. There shall be a Council of the College ("the Council") which shall be the governing body of the College with responsibility for the management and administration of the whole of the revenue and property of the College and the conduct of all its affairs, purposes and functions.
- 10. There shall be a Senate of the College ("the Senate") which shall, subject to the Statutes and to the control and approval of the Council, be responsible for the academic work of the College both in teaching and in research and for the admission, regulation and superintendence of the education and discipline of the Students of the College.

- 11. Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, the Statutes may prescribe or regulate such matters as the Council may deem fit for the governance of the College.
- 12. The Council may from time to time, with the agreement of the Senate, by Special Resolution amend or repeal this Our Charter provided that no such amendments or additions shall have effect until approved by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council.
- 13. The Council may from time to time, with the agreement of the Senate, by Special Resolution amend the Statutes provided that such amendments shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Our Charter.
- 14. The Council may make Ordinances and may add to amend or repeal such Ordinances.
- 15. Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter and the Statutes, the Council and the Senate, respectively may from time to time make Regulations for governing their proceedings and may add to, amend or repeal any such Regulations.
- 16. It shall be the duty of the Council to refer to the Senate any matters having academic implications and not previously considered by the Senate or which, in the opinion of the Council, ought to be dealt with by the Senate.
 - i) It shall be the duty of the Senate to bring before the Council any matters having financial implications.
- 17. The College shall be committed to the fair and equal treatment of every person and shall not discriminate on unjustified, irrelevant or unlawful grounds
- 18. For the purpose of this Our Charter a "Special Resolution" means a resolution passed at a meeting of the Council; provided that notice of each meeting shall be given to each Member of Council not less than fourteen days before the meeting be held and that the resolution be passed at each meeting by a majority of not less than three-fourths of those present and voting.
- 19. The property and funds of the College shall be used only for promoting the Objects. If the College is dissolved, the assets (if any) remaining after providing for all its liabilities must be applied in one or more of the following ways:
 - i) by transfer to one or more bodies established for exclusively charitable purposes, within the same as or similar to the Objects;
 - ii) directly for the Objects or for charitable purposes which are within or similar to the Objects;
 - iii) in such other manner consistent with charitable status as the Privy Council approves in writing in advance.
- 20. In this Our Charter "Statutes" means the Statutes set forth in the Schedule, "Ordinances" means ordinances made by Council pursuant to this our Charter or to the Statutes, "Regulations", except when otherwise required by the context, means Regulations made pursuant to this Our Charter or to the Statutes or Ordinances.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourself at Westminster the eleventh day of September in the sixteenth year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL.