



****UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 0001 THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2022****

SOTHEBY'S TO HOST EXHIBITION SHOWCASING "NATURE'S CROWN JEWELS"

- ***Ancient Woodlands and Trees – a public exhibition, charity auction and series of book projects in support of The Queen's Green Canopy***

An exhibition of exquisite artworks of the Ancient Canopy dedicated to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth as part of The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) will go on display at Sotheby's in London from 10th – 20th December 2022.

Launched in May by His Majesty The King, who is Patron of the QGC, the Ancient Canopy consists of a nationwide network of 70 Ancient Woodlands and 70 Ancient Trees dedicated to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to mark the Platinum Jubilee.

The exhibition will showcase a series of stunning images of the Ancient Canopy which have been captured by landscape photographers Adrian Houston and Charles Sainsbury-Plaice, alongside magnificent drawings created by artist Mary Anne Aytoun-Ellis.

The historic Ancient Woodlands and Trees portrayed by the artists will include:

- The 12th century Queen Elizabeth I Sessile Oak at Cowdray Park in West Sussex
- The Llangernyw Yew in Conwy, Wales – a living survivor from prehistoric times thought to be germinated in the Bronze Age, about 4,000 years ago
- The Black Wood of Rannoch - the largest area of semi-natural pine forest in Scotland which has survived relatively undisturbed for some 10,000 years
- The inseparable brother and sister Yew trees located in the ruins of Crom Castle, Northern Ireland

Please find attached a separate document with a selection of images of the artworks which will feature in the exhibition, with captions and credits.

During the exhibition, Sotheby's will be the setting of a private auction in support of The Queen's Green Canopy, which is a charitable initiative. The series of artworks on display as part of the exhibition are also available for sale through The Tree Art Gallery, with a donation made in support of the QGC for each purchase. <https://www.thetreartgallery.com/>

With details to be announced, two books on the Ancient Canopy will be published in 2023.

By sharing captivating picture stories of the UK's Ancient Woodlands and Trees, often referred to as "Nature's Crown Jewels", the QGC aims to raise awareness of these treasured habitats which have formed the backdrop to important moments in the history of our four nations, and the importance of conserving them for future generations.

Adrian Houston said: “Trees and woodlands are a defining and constant part of the landscape and The Queen’s Green Canopy is a unique way of illustrating how they connect us all on a universal level. Perhaps most crucially the project is also a timely reminder of the importance of planting for our future generations.”

Charles Sainsbury-Plaice said: “Much of my work over the past two decades has taken me to rural locations far and wide and inevitably, in a wood or near a tree. Being in a woodland with a camera is truly a happy place to be, especially as part of this wonderful project in honour of Her Majesty.”

Mary Anne Aytoun-Ellis said: “My entire career has centred around the British landscape; its diversity, richness and fragility and I have studied and drawn trees all my life. The drawings include trees now enveloped by urban growth while others contemplate a view little changed since they were Bronze Age saplings 3,000 years ago. The collection will be a powerful artistic statement and a record of some of the most precious and extraordinary trees in the UK.”

Lord Dalmeny, UK Chairman, London, Sotheby’s, said: “The Queen’s Green Canopy is a fantastic initiative which both celebrates the United Kingdom’s awe-inspiring natural history of woodland and trees, and pays a lasting tribute to Queen Elizabeth II. I hope that visitors to our New Bond Street galleries will be moved by the artworks, reflect upon the importance of conserving nationally significant habitats for future generations and perhaps even be inspired to plant a tree of their own.

Notes to Editors:

The artworks will be on public exhibition for all to enjoy at Sotheby's in London, 34-35 New Bond Street, W1A2AA, from the 10th- 20th December 2022. Opening times are as follows:

Saturday 10th December, midday – 5pm
Sunday 11th December, midday – 5pm
Monday 12th - Friday 16th December, 9am - 4.30pm
Saturday 17th December, midday- 5pm
Sunday 18th December, midday- 5pm
Monday 19th December, 9am - 4.30pm
Tuesday 20th December, 9am - 4.30pm

Adrian Houston is known for his atmospheric images that fire the imagination. A passionate environmentalist, his career has seen him travel to some of the world’s most unexplored and inhospitable terrains, with his powerful photographs subsequently gracing everything from advertising campaigns to magazine covers. His work has been exhibited both at The National Gallery and The Royal Academy.

Charles Sainsbury-Place is a nationally renowned countryside and equestrian photographer, whose images have been regularly featured in such publications as The Field, Country Life Horse & Hound. Charles has photographed King Charles III over many years in his previous role as The Duke of Cornwall.

Mary Anne Aytoun Ellis studied at Ruskin School of Drawing Oxford University, Royal College of Art London and Ecole des Beaux Arts Paris. She has been official tour artist to King Charles III on a number of occasions. When not scouring the British Isles for ancient trees, she works in her studio in Lewes.

The Tree Art Gallery

Founded by Emmeline Hallmark, a previous Senior Director of Sotheby's, The Tree Art Gallery is a unique contemporary art gallery specifically designed to showcase the tree-inspired artwork of leading artists. Its entire ethos is to highlight the importance of trees as an aesthetic subject which draws leading artists, as well as a vital natural feature and resource which those artists recognise. Every artwork sold supports tree planting and preservation around the world.

Sotheby's

Established in 1744, Sotheby's is the world's premier destination for art and luxury. Sotheby's promotes access to and ownership of exceptional art and luxury 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 70 categories which include Contemporary Art, Modern and Impressionist Art, Old Masters, Chinese Works of Art, Jewelry, Watches, Wine and Spirits, and Design, as well as collectible cars and real estate. Sotheby's believes in the transformative power of art and culture and is committed to making our industries more inclusive, sustainable and collaborative. www.sothebys.com

Background - The Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Following the wishes of our Patron, His Majesty The King, the QGC initiative has been extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees in memoriam to honour Her Majesty.

As a nationwide initiative created to mark the Platinum Jubilee, the QGC was due to conclude in December – the end of the Jubilee year. However, as the official tree planting season in the UK is from October to March, the initiative will now be extended to include the full tree planting season, beginning in October 2022 and concluding in March 2023.

The Queen's Green Canopy is proud to be creating a living legacy with over a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation during the first planting season, October 2021 to March 2022. The extension of the QGC initiative will build on this legacy and serve as a lasting tribute to Her Majesty's extraordinary service to her country and her people.

The interactive map created by the QGC to showcase the planting projects across the United Kingdom will also continue to the end of March 2023, giving people an opportunity to be part of this special legacy. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/map-education-hub/qgc-map/#/>

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy has dedicated a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identified 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service. <https://queensgreencanopy.org/ancient-trees-and-ancient-woodland/70-ancient-trees-and-70-ancient-woodlands/>

By inviting everyone to plant considerable numbers of new trees throughout the country, the QGC seeks to highlight the significant value of trees and woodlands as nature's simple but highly effective way to clean the air we breathe, slow the impact of climate change, create important wildlife habitats and improve our general health and wellbeing.

- Throughout Her reign, The Queen planted more than 1,500 trees all over the world and spoke alongside Sir David Attenborough of the importance of trees in the Earth's future.
- The QGC is a voluntary and inclusive initiative which is open to participation by everyone in the UK.
- The QGC is a symbolic gift which involves the voluntary dedication of forests and woodland – there is no land/title transfer.
- The QGC is a not-for-profit initiative, which has not received Government funding.

Further information about the QGC is available: www.queensgreencanopy.org

The Queen's Green Canopy Partners

Collaboration is central to the QGC. We are proud to work with **Cool Earth, The Royal Horticultural Society, The Woodland Trust, Trees for Cities, The Forest Canopy Foundation, DEFRA, The Tree Council, The Conservation Volunteers & Community Forest Trust.**

The Queen's Green Canopy – Platinum Supporters

The QGC is grateful to the **Royal Mail Group** as our first Founding Partner. We are also working with Platinum Supporters **Bloomberg Philanthropies, Coutts, John Lewis & Partners, Waitrose & Partners, Rentokil Initial, Coupa, Regatta and Craghoppers, Bridgepoint, Howdens, Johnnie Walker, McDonald's UK & Ireland. Bags of Ethics by Supreme Creations and Bollinger** are Official Supporters.

The Queen's Green Canopy – QGC Friends Network

A diverse collection of groups located across the UK, our Friends Network is supporting the QGC, from planting trees to helping inspire the nation to get involved.

<https://queensgreencanopy.org/about-us/qgc-friends-network/>

QGC social media channels

Instagram: @queensgreencanopy

Twitter: @QGCcanopy

Facebook: @queensgreencanopy

LinkedIn: @queensgreencanopy

Hashtags: #queensgreencanopy #ancientcanopy #ancientwoodlands #ancienttrees

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