

Press Release  
Friday 17 March 2023

## BRIDGET RILEY CREATES PAINTING FOR THE CEILING OF THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ROME



Bridget Riley in her studio with designs for the ceiling at the BSR  
Photograph by Mark Getty. Courtesy of the British School at Rome

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The latest work by one of the world's most celebrated artists, Bridget Riley, a painted ceiling for the British School at Rome (BSR), will be unveiled on **4 May 2023**.

Bridget Riley has created many murals and wall paintings but this is her first ceiling painting. The large-scale work will be installed in the foyer of the BSR, covering four barrel vaults of the ceiling and using her 'Egyptian palette'.

Bridget Riley has strong ties with the BSR, including an exhibition of her work which was presented at the BSR in 1996. More recently, since 2016 she has endowed The Bridget Riley Fellowship, which provides an opportunity for a young painter to spend six months at the BSR to develop their work.

For 100 years, world-class researchers and contemporary artists have been nurtured at the BSR, Britain's leading fine arts and humanities research institute abroad. Founded in 1901, it is based in the Edwin Lutyens-designed British Pavilion created for the International Exhibition of 1911, and is

located immediately adjacent to the Villa Borghese gardens and Italy's Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna.

Since its foundation in 1901, the BSR has brought together established leaders and rising stars of the academic and fine arts worlds to research and develop their work in its exceptional, multidisciplinary community. Its alumni are an impressive list of critically acclaimed artists, architects and scholars including Gillian Ayres, Cornelia Parker, Chantal Joffe, Julian Opie, Laure Prouvost, Bob & Roberta Smith, Mark Wallinger, Alison Wilding, Cerith Wyn Evans, David Abulafia, Mary Beard, Nicholas Cullinan, Penelope Curtis, Nicholas Purcell, Bob Allies and Will Alsop.

**Bridget Riley, Artist, said:** "I would like to thank the British School at Rome for its invitation to paint the vaulting barrels of Edwin Lutyens' beautiful ceiling. It was the beginning of an exhilarating visual chase. Exhilarating but not without hazard. Through many pleasurable challenges, encouraged by Mark Getty's enthusiasm, I pursued this perceptual adventure and played my 'colour acoustics' with great delight. Looking up, the colour of the skies offers a glimpse of nature in her most promising and serene mood."

**Mark Getty, Chair of the BSR Council, said:** "We are thrilled that Bridget Riley has developed, executed, and given this wall painting to the BSR. It will adorn our entrance for decades to come, and pronounce clearly the strong relationship which exists between British and Commonwealth artists and thinkers, and the Roman and Italian world."

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**Notes to Editors:**

**The British School at Rome**

The British School at Rome is the largest British centre of interdisciplinary research excellence based in Europe, supporting the full range of arts, humanities and social sciences.

The BSR awards full-board residential scholarships and fellowships in Rome to artists and scholars from across the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth for periods from 3 to 12 months. BSR awards are considered to enjoy substantial prestige within their respective fields. All scholars, artists and award holders share the same accommodation in the BSR's premises near Villa Borghese. As well as access to one of Rome's leading English-language art and archaeology libraries, awardees are lodged in the BSR's on-site accommodation and are catered for in the communal dining room. The

fine art awards provide artists with purpose-built, fully equipped, live-in studios and workshop facilities.

Awards, based on an international, open access application system, are made in the following fields: Archaeology of Italy and the Mediterranean; Late Antique and Medieval History; Renaissance and Enlightenment studies; Modern Italian Studies; Architectural History; Architecture including Landscape Architecture; contemporary visual arts practice.