



## **REBECCA SALTER, PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, AWARDED 2020 GENESIS PRIZE**

The Genesis Foundation today announced Rebecca Salter, President of the Royal Academy of Arts, as the winner of the 2020 Genesis Prize. Worth £25,000, the Genesis Prize is the only prize which recognises outstanding mentoring of artistic talent and gives winners the opportunity to expand on their work.

Ms Salter was selected for the 2020 Genesis Prize by the Genesis Foundation trustees for her work as Keeper of the Royal Academy where she was responsible for guiding the RA Schools. Reflecting the crucial role of mentoring in the development of new artistic talent, which is at the core of the Genesis Foundation's ethos, Ms Salter will use the prize money to develop a new programme that will provide graduates of the RA School with the professional skills and resilience training needed to survive as practising artists in the commercial world.

In an historic vote in December 2019, Ms Salter was elected as the Royal Academy's 27th – and first female – President. Salter was elected by fellow Royal Academicians – the leading artists and architects who run the RA - an appointment that, in accordance with Academy law, was formally approved by Her Majesty The Queen.

A leading painter and printmaker, Salter was elected as a Royal Academician in 2014. In 2017 she became Keeper of the Royal Academy.

John Studzinski, Founder & Chairman of the Genesis Foundation, said:

*"I am delighted that the 2020 Genesis Award goes to Rebecca Salter for her work as Keeper of the Royal Academy. Everyone at the Genesis Foundation has been impressed by Rebecca's passion and commitment to nurturing young artistic talent. Her ability to recognise the changing needs of young artists and to develop practical programmes to support them makes her a worthy winner of the Genesis Award. We warmly welcome her into the Genesis Foundation's family of artistic leaders."*

Rebecca Salter said:

*"I am delighted to receive the 2020 Genesis Prize in recognition of my work with the students at the Royal Academy Schools. One of the founding principles of the Royal Academy was to have a school of art. Over the last 250 years it has trained artists from JMW Turner RA to Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, many of whom go on to contribute to the artistic and cultural life of the UK and beyond. The RA Schools still provides the only free three-year postgraduate course in Europe giving young artists valuable space and time to develop their practice. This prize will enable the RA Schools to develop a new programme teaching resilience and to offer post-graduation support."*

Previous winners of the Genesis Prize are **Joe Robertson & Joe Murphy** of Good Chance Theatre; **Hadrian Garrard**, director of Create London; **Polly Staple**, Director of Collection, British Art, Tate (for her work at Chisenhale Gallery) and **Hamish Dunbar**, artistic director of Café Oto.

A new Genesis Podcast has been released featuring Rebecca Salter in conversation with psychotherapist and lecturer Barry Smale. Focusing on resilience, the pair discuss the programme Salter is starting at the Royal Academy with her Genesis Prize award. The podcast can be listened to here: <https://genesisfoundation.org.uk/podcasts/> and on all major platforms, including Apple Music, Spotify and Soundcloud.

**For further press information, please contact Simon Millward, Premier PR,  
[simon.millward@premiercomms.com](mailto:simon.millward@premiercomms.com), 07990507310.**

### **Notes to editors**

Established by John Studzinski in 2001, the Genesis Foundation supports programmes that nurture the careers of outstanding young artists. In partnership with leaders of prestigious UK arts organisations such as the Almeida Theatre, LAMDA, National Theatre, Young Vic and The Sixteen, it provides and enhances opportunities for directors, playwrights, actors and musicians at key stages in their professional lives. It also awards the bi-annual Genesis Prize, the only arts award to focus on mentors and the vital role they play in an artist's development.

The Foundation's work is increasingly characterised by the theme of art & faith. Recent highlights include the performance in the Sistine Chapel of James MacMillan's Stabat mater which, along with several other pieces by MacMillan, numbers among the 25 sacred music works that the Genesis Foundation has commissioned. These have been performed and recorded primarily by Harry Christophers and The Sixteen.

[www.genesisfoundation.org.uk](http://www.genesisfoundation.org.uk)