



David Hockney

Words and Pictures



Front cover: David Hockney 'Serenade'
From *The Blue Guitar* (Portfolio Of Twenty Prints) 1976-77
Hardground and softground etching and aquatint
52.3 x 45.7 cm
British Council Collection
© David Hockney

David Hockney, 'The Start Of The Spending Spree And The Door Opening For A Blonde' From *A Rake's Progress* (Portfolio Of Sixteen Prints) 1961-63
Etching
30 x 40 cm
British Council Collection
© David Hockney

David Hockney, 'A Black Cat Leaping' From *Illustrations For Six Fairy Tales From The Brothers Grimm* 1969
Etching aquatint
30 x 40 cm
British Council Collection
© David Hockney



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Exhibition summary Drawn from the British Council Collection, this exhibition presents four major suites of prints produced by David Hockney from 1961–77. United by their reference to historical works of literature and art, these prints were all produced during the first two decades of Hockney’s career when he established his international reputation as a Pop artist.

In *A Rake’s Progress*, Hockney transposed the moral tale of a squandered life based on William Hogarth’s late eighteenth century series of the same name, onto his own semi-autobiographical tales of a summer spent in New York. Hockney’s admiration for the poetry of C.P Cavafy, the Greek poet of Alexandria, inspired him to illustrate fourteen of Cavafy’s poems, capturing the sensuality of the original poetry with intimate drawings of his friends in London. His attraction to the simple direct style of writing in the world famous fairy tales collected by the Brothers Grimm was to influence one of Hockney’s most ambitious printmaking projects, a series of eighty etchings illustrating six titles, thirty nine of which were published by Petersburg Press in 1970. The final suite, *The Blue Guitar*, 1977 was based on the poem *The Man with the Blue Guitar* by the American poet Wallace Stevens, who had in his time been inspired by Picasso. The series of twenty colourful etchings with their vast array of imagery and styles are a homage to the Spanish master.

Artist biography David Hockney was born in Bradford, in Yorkshire, England in 1937. After studying at Bradford College of Art (1953–57), he embarked on a three-year postgraduate course in painting at the Royal College of Art in London (1959–62), where he was awarded the gold medal for outstanding talent. In 1961, while still a student, he was propelled into the vanguard of British Pop art with the group exhibition ‘Young Contemporaries’ at the RBA Galleries, London. As a painter, printmaker, photographer and stage designer Hockney has absorbed influences and moved energetically between styles and media to create an extraordinarily varied body of work – one which also reflects an appetite for friendships and new environments. He first visited New York in 1961 and travelled to Egypt and Los Angeles in 1963, remaining in the US to teach at the University of Iowa (1964), University of Colorado (1965) and Los Angeles (1966–67). From 1968 to 1971 he travelled in Europe, the USA, Japan, Indonesia, Burma and Hawaii. He lived in Paris from 1973 to 1975, returning to the USA in 1976, where he made his home. He now lives and works between London, California and Bridlington, in Yorkshire.

Availability From autumn 2014

Duration Preferably minimum of 6 weeks

Content *A Rake’s Progress* – 16 framed prints, 30.5 x 41 cm each
Illustrations for Fourteen Poems from C. P. Cavafy – 12 framed prints, 57 x 39.5 cm each
Illustrations for Six Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm – 39 framed prints, sizes variable (largest work measuring 44.7 x 32.4 cm)
The Blue Guitar – 20 framed prints, 45.7 x 52.3 cm each

Exhibition size Approximately 150 hanging metres

Transport 7 cases (dimensions and weights available upon request)

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Hanging	All framed works must be screwed to the walls
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Security	Constant invigilation Good alarm and security system
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Environment	No direct sunlight Artificial lights must be below 100 Lux Relative humidity must be 55% Empty cases must be stored in controlled environment
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Catalogue	<i>David Hockney: Words and Pictures</i> a newly commissioned British Council English language postcard pack, containing a selection of 11 images from the exhibition and essay by Head of Exhibitions Richard Riley. The postcards are secured in a folder allowing space for translated texts to be included.
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Copyright	Copyright is held by the artist. All images must be cleared before reproduction both in print or online Fees may be applicable for commercial use
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Costs to be covered by receiving venue	Transportation costs: - Tour (3 venues or more): transport costs to onward venue and contribution to final return transport to UK - Single venue: all outbound and inbound transport costs Insurance (nail to nail) - exhibition value available on request Administration fee (see below) Minimum purchase of 100 copies of catalogue at cost price Professional photography of exhibition to be sent to British Council Storage of empty cases in controlled environment Copyright fees linked to any image reproduction, including for press and promotion
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Administration fee	Available upon request. Fee covers: Curatorial support, technical advice, exhibition administration, artist and gallery liaison, case-making, packaging, framing/fixings, label texts (English only), panel text (English only), catalogue production
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Contact	Sinta Berry, Touring Exhibitions Manager touring.visualarts@britishcouncil.org
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