

HAYWARD GALLERY

Press Release

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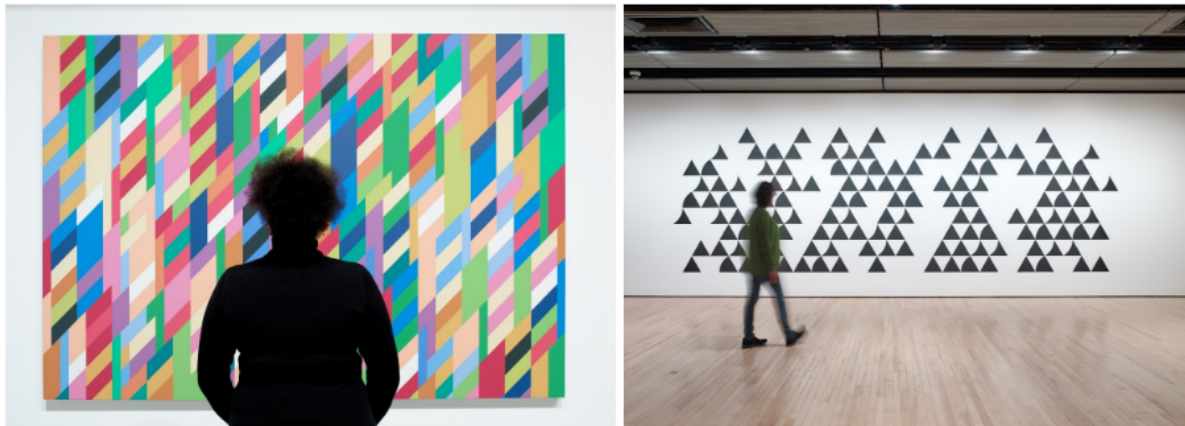
Installation images downloadable [here](#)

Press images downloadable [here](#)

Bridget Riley

23 October 2019 – 26 January 2020

Hayward Gallery



(L-R: *Installation view of Bridget Riley, From Here, 1994* at Hayward Gallery 2019 Photo: Stephen White & Co. ; *Installation view of Bridget Riley, Quiver 3, 2014* at Hayward Gallery 2019 © Bridget Riley 2019 Photo: Stephen White & Co.)

Hayward Gallery presents a major retrospective exhibition devoted to the work of celebrated British artist **Bridget Riley**. Spanning 70 years of the artist's working life, it is the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of her work to date.

Bridget Riley is one of the most distinguished and internationally renowned artists working today. Her pioneering approach to painting involves the skilful balancing of form and colour, yielding a continuous but highly varied enquiry into the nature of abstraction and perception. Riley's rigorous and visually-charged works actively engage the viewer, bringing attention to the act of looking at paintings and perceiving the world around us.

The exhibition traces both the origins and evolving nature of Bridget Riley's innovative practice. Chronicling early works to recent paintings, it features her iconic black-and-white works of the 1960s (*Kiss*, 1961, *Movement in Squares*, 1961 and *Blaze 1*, 1962), an extensive range of colour canvases (among them *Rise 1*, 1968, *High Sky*, 1991 and *Aria*, 2012) as well as her rarely-seen figurative works and studies.

Including over 200 works and 50 key paintings, the exhibition is organised thematically rather than chronologically, and draws attention to the interests and themes that recur throughout Riley's formidable body of work.

The exhibition also features four key wall works (*Composition with Circles 4*, 2004; *Rajasthan*, 2012; *Quiver 3*, 2014; *Untitled (Measure for Measure Wall Painting)*, 2017) which reflect recent shifts of interest in the artist's studio work. The exhibition also features several large canvases that have seldom been seen in this country (*Exposure*, 1966, *Paeon*, 1973 and *Aubade*, 1975) and the only three-dimensional work that the artist ever realised, *Continuum* (1963/2005). A selection of drawings, studies and preparatory works offer insight into Riley's working methods, from 1947 to the present day. In the Hayward Gallery foyer, visitors will encounter a rarely seen flag, *Flag (Red - Turquoise - White)*, 1971, which has not been exhibited since the 1970s.

This retrospective builds on the long-standing relationship between the artist and Hayward Gallery. The exhibition *Bridget Riley* is the artist's third solo show at Hayward, having previously presented solo shows in 1971 and 1992. Following the award of the International Prize for Painting at the XXXIV Venice Biennale in 1968, her ground-breaking 1971 exhibition, *Bridget Riley: Paintings and Drawings 1951-71*, was both the first UK survey of her work and the first large-scale exhibition at Hayward Gallery devoted to a contemporary British painter. She continued to show at Hayward from the 1970s onwards, with several touring solo exhibitions arranged by the Arts Council. Riley also participated in *The Hayward Annual 1985: a journey through contemporary art* (curated by Nigel Greenwood) and acted as co-curator, with Robert Kudielka, for *Paul Klee: The Nature of Creation* in 2002.

Ralph Rugoff, Director of Hayward Gallery said: "We are delighted to be welcoming Bridget Riley back to Hayward Gallery with an exhibition that offers visitors an unparalleled opportunity to experience works from the full span of her brilliant career. Her paintings transform the act of seeing into a festive occasion, something at once riveting and revelatory. Engaging every viewer in new acts of discovery, her work is not just vision-enhancing but life-enhancing. These are paintings that make you feel more alive as they reaffirm the link between seeing and thinking."

Sir John Leighton, Director-General of National Galleries of Scotland said: "Audiences in Scotland have been thrilled by this major show of Bridget Riley who counts as one of the most original and significant artists of our time. We are delighted that this stunning exhibition is now opening at Hayward Gallery where her work will continue to amaze and delight."

Alongside the exhibition, an extensive public programme has been devised spanning lectures, talks, tours, education events and music inspired by Riley's work.

London Sinfonietta will give the London premiere of a newly commissioned work by leading Austrian composer **Georg Friedrich Haas**, and concerts in the exhibition itself will feature performances of **Steve Reich's** *Drumming*, which had its European premiere at Hayward Gallery in 1972.

Bridget Riley is organised by the National Galleries of Scotland in partnership with Hayward Gallery. The exhibition is organised by the National Galleries of Scotland in partnership with Hayward Gallery. At Hayward Gallery, it has been curated by Senior Curator Dr Cliff Lauson, with Assistant Curator Sophie Oxenbridge and Curatorial Assistant Alyssa Bacon.

The exhibition is generously supported by Sotheby's, The Baring Foundation and the Bridget Riley Exhibition Supporters' Group: Ivor Braka, The Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation, Christian and Florence Levett, Liz and Luke Mayhew, Victor and Elena Pinchuk and Prowinko Pro Art. With additional support from Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin | Paris | London, David Zwirner and Sprüth Magers.

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For further press information and high res images please contact:

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Listings information:

Bridget Riley

23 October 2019 – 26 January 2020

Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX

Prices: From £18. Concessions available and members go free.

Link to *Bridget Riley* web page [HERE](#)

Hayward Gallery opening times:

11am – 7pm every day except Tuesdays when the gallery is closed.

Late night opening on Thursdays until 9pm

Public Programme Details:

Lectures and Panel discussions:

Colour and Rhythm

Wednesday 27 November 2019, Level 5 Function Room, 7pm, £8

Curator and writer Francesca Gavin and artists Sara Barker, Rana Begum and Isabelle Cornaro discuss the role and relevance of abstraction in contemporary art today, and in their own practices.

Lynne Cooke: On Bridget Riley

Thursday 9 January 2020, Level 5 Function Room, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm, £8

US-based curator Lynne Cooke discusses aspects of Bridget Riley's painting in relation to contemporary artistic practice.

Bridget Riley: Painting and Perception

Saturday 18 January 2020, Purcell Room, 1pm, £15

Half-day event devoted to the work of celebrated British artist Bridget Riley with speakers and thinkers including art historian Richard Shiff, science writer Philip Ball and artist Liz West.

Courses and workshops:

Blaze: A Poetry Course Inspired by Bridget Riley

Monday 11 November - Monday 16 December 2019, Hayward Gallery, £90 for five-session course

Led by poet Rachel Long, this five-week poetry course inspired by the work of Bridget Riley explores colour, movement and light within language.

(B)old Visions: Film-making for Dementia

Tuesday 5 November 2019, Hayward Gallery, 1:30pm, Free, but ticketed

Led by a professional film-maker, a nine-week film-making programme, inspired by the work of artist Bridget Riley, for people with dementia and their carers. Participants are invited to take part with a companion, including carers, friends or family members.

Art Course: Colour - Shape, Sequence and Surprise

Monday 18 November 2019 - Monday 9 December 2019, Hayward Gallery, £90 for four-session course

A four-week practical course with artist Emyr Williams, drawing on the work of Bridget Riley.

Teachers' Twilight: Bridget Riley

Thursday 31 October 2019, Royal Festival Hall (White Room), 5pm, Free but ticketed

Teachers new to Hayward Gallery are invited to an evening exploring the artist's major retrospective.

Hayward Takeover: Bridget Riley

Tuesday 10 December 2019, Royal Festival Hall (The Clore Ballroom), 10.30am, Free but ticketed

Primary schools explore Hayward Gallery through the eyes of their fellow students in this day of peer-led activities.

Other artform events programmed around the exhibition:

Georg Friedrich Haas Homage To Bridget Riley

Thursday 5 December 2019, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm, £15 - £20

London Sinfonietta gives the world premiere of a new Bridget Riley-inspired work by leading Austrian composer Georg Friedrich Haas.

Steve Reich's *Drumming* with the Colin Currie Group

Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December 2019, Hayward Gallery, 7.30pm and 9.45pm both nights, £24

Steve Reich's minimalist masterpiece returns to Hayward Gallery, the venue of its European premiere, performed by Colin Currie Group.

Sean Shibe

Friday 10 January 2020, Hayward Gallery, 7.30pm and 9.30pm, £24

Award-winning young guitarist Sean Shibe spans 400 years of music, from lute to electric guitar in a Hayward Gallery concert which complements our major Bridget Riley retrospective.

London Contemporary Orchestra - *Rushes*

Friday 17 January 2020, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7.30pm, £15 - £25

An installation combining AI, images and music, influenced by the perceptual effects of Bridget Riley's work, which responds to the sound of the London Contemporary Orchestra performing composer Michael Gordon's mesmerising *Rushes* for seven bassoons.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Hayward Gallery

Hayward Gallery, part of Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. They include those by Bridget Riley, Martin Creed, Antony Gormley, Tracey Emin, Andy Warhol, Ed Ruscha, Jeremy Deller, Anish Kapoor, René Magritte, Francis Bacon and David Shrigley, as well as influential group exhibitions such as *Africa Remix*, *Light Show*, *Psycho Buildings* and *Space Shifters*. Opened by Her Majesty, The Queen in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a 17 acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).

About Stanton Williams

Stanton Williams is a Stirling prize-winning architecture practice founded by Paul Williams and Alan Stanton in London in 1985. This latest Bridget Riley show at Hayward Gallery follows over 25 years of close creative collaboration between the artist and Stanton Williams' Director Paul Williams. He has designed some of the artist's seminal exhibitions and curatorial projects at Hayward Gallery (1992), Tate Britain (2003), Max Hetzler Gallery (2013) and De La Warr Pavilion (2015). Working closely with artists and curators remains at the heart of the practice's work and has resulted in critically acclaimed exhibitions and permanent galleries worldwide.

SOUTHBANK CENTRE
