



THE RENAISSANCE NUDE
ROYAL ACADEMY

TUESDAY 12 MARCH

The 15th and 16th centuries were a pivotal time for the nude in Western art. A renewed interest in ancient Greek and Roman art brought the human body to the forefront of artistic innovation. Artists on both sides of the Alps – Perugino, Pollaiuolo and Gossaert among others – were copying from classical models, experimenting with naturalistic approaches, as well as exploring new, non-religious subject matter. At the same time, the nude was transforming Christian art, encouraging modern and dynamic representations of age-old themes, from the story of Adam and Eve to the crucifixion. This spectacular exhibition explores these important changes in a selection of exquisite works. Bringing together works by artists such as Titian, Raphael, Michelangelo, Leonardo, Dürer and Cranach, the exhibition sheds light on a visual tradition at its most vital moment. From full-scale paintings to jewel-like miniatures, bronze statuettes to anatomical studies, they contrast idealised beauty with the ageing body, and public images with more intimate, private works. Together, they offer an insight into a visual tradition that became central to European art, which still resonates with artists and audiences today.

Exhibition study days begin with a lecture in the Art Workers Guild, Queen Square, Bloomsbury, unless otherwise indicated. Coffee is served at 10.30, the lecture begins at 11, and a light lunch with wine is served at 1 pm. We then travel to the relevant gallery for the exhibition, and end after a brief discussion at about 4.15 pm.

£84 INSCAPE members, £94 non-members, (£70 and £80 Royal Academy Members). Your family, friends and neighbours who have not previously attended an Inscape lecture are most welcome to be our guests.