

News Release

Contact:

Campbell Hood
Tel: +44 78 6091 1622
Campbell.Hood@columbiathreadneedle.com

NATIONAL GALLERY'S *TAKE ONE PICTURE* EXHIBITION SUPPORTED BY COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE OPENS ON TRAFALGAR SQUARE

- ***Opens today, Thursday, 1 August 2024***

LONDON, 1 AUGUST 2024: Columbia Threadneedle Investments is proud to sponsor for the seventh consecutive year the National Gallery's annual *Take One Picture* learning programme and exhibition, opening today and continuing throughout August. For the first time, the exhibition is being displayed outside the walls of the Gallery on Trafalgar Square, running as part of the Gallery's Free Festival of Art.

Take One Picture is the National Gallery's countrywide scheme for primary schools which uses one painting from the Gallery's collection to inspire cross-curricular work in primary classrooms. Each year the *Take One Picture* programme invites pupils to respond creatively to its themes, putting art at the centre of children's learning and inspiring creativity, curiosity and a lifelong connection with artists' work. The programme is also supported by Columbia Threadneedle's charitable entity, Columbia Threadneedle Foundation.

In consultation with children, this year the selected work is *Surprised!* (1891) by Henri Rousseau, one of the Gallery's top 20 most popular and visited paintings, as the source of inspiration. The painting shows a tiger in a jungle storm, crouching low in long grass as rain lashes the foliage and lightning flashes overhead.

This year's programme has been the biggest yet, with 300 schools participating – a 62% increase on 2023. 85% of these were state and Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools. The programme has been extremely successful in broadening the learning of schoolchildren by connecting art with other subjects across the curriculum, such as history and geography, making art more accessible to children and young people who have never visited an art gallery before.

Laura Cook, Head of Corporate Communications, EMEA & APAC, at Columbia Threadneedle Investments and Chair of Columbia Threadneedle Foundation, said: “We are pleased the *Take One Picture* exhibition is taking place outside on Trafalgar Square for the first time. This excellent idea aligns with the Columbia Threadneedle Foundation's strategy of delivering long term social change by making art even more accessible to children and young people who may not otherwise engage with the arts.

“*Take One Picture*'s innovative approach encourages children to develop their analytical skills through the interpretation of an artwork, skills which they will take onward through their education and future life. The programme also celebrates children's artistic talents and fosters a sense of belonging in the Gallery. Our commitment to support *Take One Picture* over the past seven years reflects the value we see in this national programme.”

Karen Eslea, Head of Learning and National Programmes at the National Gallery, said “Both *Take One Picture* and *Summer on the Square* are brilliant ways for us to reach children and help them develop an early knowledge and curiosity around art and how this connects to their curriculum more broadly. We're delighted to be bringing this year's exhibition out onto Trafalgar Square and it's been amazing to see the different things that have inspired children this year, from the animals' environments to the physical feel of the foliage.”

The *Take One Picture* exhibition will run from Thursday 1 August 2024 until Sunday 1 September 2024 on Trafalgar Square in London, as part of the Gallery's Free Festival of Art. Admission is free.

Columbia Threadneedle Foundation invests in the community through partnerships that create positive social impact. The Foundation focuses on charities that use education, art and sport to engender lasting social change through programmes that build skills and confidence, challenge perspectives and broaden horizons.

For more information on Take One Picture visit: <https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/take-one-picture>

**** IMAGE ATTACHED – Credit line: ‘*Surprised!*’ by Henri Rousseau (1891), The National Gallery, London. ****

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About Columbia Threadneedle Investments

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is a leading global asset manager, entrusted with £508bn¹ on behalf of individual, institutional and corporate clients around the world.

We have more than 2,500 people including approximately 650 investment professionals based in North America, Europe and Asia². We offer our clients a wide range of strategies across equities, fixed income and alternatives, as well as specialist responsible investment capabilities and a comprehensive suite of solutions.

Columbia Threadneedle Investments is the global asset management group of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. (NYSE:AMP), a leading US-based financial services provider. As part of Ameriprise, we are supported by a large and well-capitalised diversified financial services firm.

¹ Source: Ameriprise Financial Q2 2024 earnings release

² As at 30 June 2024, Columbia Threadneedle Investments

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About the National Gallery

The National Gallery is one of the greatest art galleries in the world. Founded by Parliament in 1824, the Gallery houses the nation's collection of paintings in the Western European tradition from the late 13th to the early 20th century. The collection includes works by Bellini, Cezanne, Degas, Leonardo, Monet, Raphael, Rembrandt, Renoir, Rubens, Titian, Turner, Van Dyck, Van Gogh and Velázquez. The Gallery's key objectives are to enhance the collection, care for the collection and provide the best possible access to visitors. Admission free. More at nationalgallery.org.uk

On 10 May 2024 the National Gallery was 200 years old, and we started our Bicentenary celebration, a year-long festival of art, creativity and imagination, marking two centuries of bringing people and paintings together.

About Take One Picture

Launched in 1995, *Take One Picture* is the National Gallery's countrywide scheme for primary schools. Each year the Gallery focuses on one painting from the collection to inspire cross-curricular work in primary classrooms. The Gallery offers one-day training sessions which give teachers the opportunity to learn about the focus picture and explore the pedagogy and practice of using paintings as a rich resource for child-led, investigative learning. Each year a selection of work produced by schools based on the painting is shown at the National Gallery and published on the website. In order to be considered for the display, schools submit examples of how a whole class or school has used the picture to inspire projects that are child-led and cross-curricular, and through which children have learned a new process and involved people or places in the local community.

Further information about the programme, related CPD courses for teachers, and the annual *Take One Picture* exhibition at the National Gallery can be found at nationalgallery.org.uk/take-one-picture

About Henri Rousseau

Rousseau was born at Laval and first worked as an inspector at a toll station on the outskirts of Paris (1871-85). From this his popular name 'le douanier' (the customs officer) is derived. He took seriously to painting after retirement and exhibited from 1886 at the Salon des Indépendants. He is best known for his jungle fantasy pictures, of which the Collection contains one example.

Rousseau was apparently indebted to Gauguin in the composition of his works, and to traditional Salon painters, like Gérôme, in his careful technique. His work attracted a small group of admirers, including Picasso, Léger, and the poet Apollinaire, but he was otherwise regarded as a complete eccentric.

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