



## **‘A COLOSSUS OF CONTEMPORARY ART’: ANSELM KIEFER**

ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION

TUESDAY 7 OCTOBER

MARY ACTON

Anselm Kiefer is arguably the most important painter working in Europe today. This autumn, the Royal Academy will stage the most significant exhibition ever held in the UK of Kiefer's brave and profound painting and sculpture, a commanding display spanning his entire 40-year career. A worthy testament to a man driven to confront himself and his audience with the big and complex issues of human experience, these works will stand alone and in conversation with one another. They pose provocative questions of not only national identity and collective memory, but also of theology and of the irrepressible arenas of life where there is no dogma. A childhood playing in the ruins of post-war Germany and an early career painting themes of German myth preceded his evolution as an artist into the truly monumental, indeed gigantic works, produced in huge studio spaces. Ambitious landscape paintings and sculptures corresponding to monumental constructions in the surrounding woodland, and serpentine excavated labyrinths with great earthy columns that resemble stalagmites or termite mounds address the very fate of art and culture, indeed, of all humankind's ambitions. Simon Schama writes "Anyone in search of a resonant meditation on the instability of built grandeur would do well to look hard at Kiefer's *The Fertile Crescent*".

MEET 10:30 am coffee for 11 am lecture at the Art Workers' Guild  
ENDS 4 pm at the Royal Academy

COST £80 members, £90 non-members