

POST SCRIPT

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GLOBAL REACH: Main picture above, August 2021, *Landscape with Shadows*, twelve iPad paintings comprising a single work. From left, Hockney's iPad flower paintings – 28th February 2021, *Roses in a Blue Vase*; 19th March 2021, *Sunflower with Exotic Flower*; and 20th March 2021, *Flowers, Glass Vase on a Table*. © DAVID HOCKNEY

HOCKNEY'S BIGGER PICTURES

David Hockney began his career at the Bradford School of Art in 1953. He has gone on to become one of the most influential figures in art. Steve Teale reports on his latest venture

If at 85, you expected Britain's most eminent artist to be taking it easy, then think again. David Hockney is busier than ever, it seems. Not only has he seen one of his works of art triple its estimate at auction recently, but he is now taking part in a truly global exhibition at five venues. His exhibition runs at Annely Juda gallery in London from Thursday November 3. The exhibition is called *20 Flowers and Some Bigger Pictures*, and is an unprecedented collaboration between five international galleries. The show will include iPad paintings created by Hockney in 2021, in his studio and residence in Normandy, France, expanding on his 2020 iPad painting series while in quarantine. The works were inspired by his daily observations in the serene French countryside, including landscapes and florals, as

well as the debut of one large-scale photographic drawing, on view for the first time. Together these pieces channel distinct influences ranging from the Bayeux Tapestry and 17th-century Chinese scrolls to the still lifes of Henri Matisse. A gallery spokesman said: "What's unique about this show is that it is an international collaboration amongst five major galleries in five different cities. "The show is conceived as one show, the same checklist, also to be presented by Galerie Lelong, Paris; GRAY, Chicago; LA Louver, Los Angeles; and Pace, New York City, which will open a bit later in January. This offers the opportunity for a larger global audience to experience this body of work." It comes after a painting by Hockney of the sun rising over the Mediterranean sold

at auction for almost £21m, nearly three times its lower estimate. *Early Morning, Sainte-Maxime*, completed by artist in 1969, had been owned by a private individual for more than 30 years. Estimated to fetch £7m to £10m, it sold in six minutes of bidding between private buyers, according to the auction house Christie's. It has some way to go to beat the record for a Hockney painting, *Portrait of an Artist (Pool with Two Figures)* sold for \$90m (£70m at the time) in 2018, making Hockney the most highly valued living artist. He is said to have painted *Early Morning, Sainte-Maxime* from a photograph he took while staying at the home of the film director Tony Richardson. The port of Sainte-Maxime was visible across the bay from the hills above Saint-Tropez. Hockney and his then partner, Pe-

ter Schlesinger, were guests at the Richardson's house. Katharine Arnold, Christie's head of post-war and contemporary art Europe, said: "The Côte d'Azur was in its glamorous heyday. Schlesinger was Hockney's great love, and what you see in the picture is a sense of real contentment and happiness. You can feel the joy that he felt in painting." The "magical" light of the area was the "same light that Matisse and Picasso fell in love with", she added. In recent years, Hockney has created art on an iPad, after earlier experimenting with faxes, photocopies and Polaroids. The opening dates and run times at each venue are: Annely Juda Fine Art, London, November 3 – December 23; Galerie Lelong & Co., Paris, November 3 – December 22; GRAY, Chicago, November 4 – December 23; L.A. Louver, Los Angeles, November 16, 2022 – January 7; Pace, New York, January 12 – February 25.

