

Scotland Venice^{mmxiii}



Press Release

Date: 10th April 2013

Scotland + Venice 2013, Collateral Event of the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

The **Scotland + Venice** partnership is delighted to announce further details of the 2013 presentation, curated and organised by The Common Guild, Glasgow. The exhibition will feature new work by Corin Sworn, Duncan Campbell and Hayley Tompkins, as a Collateral Event at the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia. Working across a range of media, from watercolour to digital video, Scotland + Venice 2013 will showcase three of the most consistently interesting artists working in Scotland today, all of whom studied at The Glasgow School of Art and have earned growing acclaim and attention in recent years.

Scotland + Venice is a partnership between Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland. 2013 will be the sixth Scotland + Venice presentation and marks the 10th anniversary for the project with the first exhibition in 2003 showing the work of Claire Barclay, Jim Lambie and Simon Starling. This presentation builds on the critical success of previous years, which have showcased artists including Turner Prize winners Simon Starling and Martin Boyce, and Scotland + Venice's track record for presenting artists at key stages of their careers, including 2011's presentation of Turner Prize nominee Karla Black.

This year's project will include new work by the three selected artists presented across a suite of rooms in the 15th century Palazzo Pisani (Sta. Marina), home to Scotland + Venice since 2009. The three artists participating in Scotland + Venice 2013 will present solo exhibitions at The Common Guild in Glasgow during the summer of 2014.

Corin Sworn creates installations that explore the way objects circulate to disseminate stories and create histories. Often combining images with spoken narrative, her work examines the cultural and personal significance attributed to found objects, including images, and the factors that shape their meaning.

Corin's new work for Scotland + Venice 2013 takes inspiration from a collection of slides taken by her father during his field work as a social anthropologist in the 1970s. In returning a selection of the images to the village where they were first taken, Sworn uses the photographs to explore aspects of imaging, memory, place and oral history.

Duncan Campbell produces films that look at representations of the people and events at the heart of very particular histories. Combining archive material with his own footage, his work questions the authority, integrity and intentions of the information presented.

For Scotland + Venice 2013, Duncan has taken Chris Marker and Alain Resnais' 1953 essay film 'Les Statues meurent aussi' (Statues also Die) as both source and artefact, to pursue a meditation on the life, death and the value of objects. Duncan includes the film alongside a new work that combines filmed footage, animation and archive footage, in a social and historical examination of cultural imperialism and commodity.

Hayley Tompkins makes painted objects that transform familiar, commonplace things - such as knives, hammers, mobile phones or furniture. Her work articulates the relationship between the form, feel and function of an object.

For Scotland + Venice 2013, Hayley is producing a new body of work including paintings and photographic works for the very particular visual character of the palazzo, working with its natural light and ornamental details.

Scotland + Venice is a partnership between Creative Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland and British Council Scotland. Additional support for the new works commissioned for Scotland + Venice 2013 has been provided by Outset Scotland, a new chapter of Outset Contemporary Art Fund, dedicated to the philanthropic support of contemporary art. Further support has been given by The Hope Scott Trust and Arts Trust Scotland.

Scotland + Venice 2013 will again include an Information Assistants Programme which will promote the professional development of students through training, workshops, mentoring, support and discussion. For the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, the programme will build on the success of previous years by including students from five major art schools in Scotland; City of Glasgow College, Duncan of Jordanstone, College of Art & Design, University of Dundee, Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh, The Glasgow School of Art and Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University.

Dr. Simon Groom, Director of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art said:

“Showcasing the strength and diversity of Scottish contemporary art on an international stage is vital for sustaining the incredible creativity that currently exists in Scotland. We are delighted to be working with the Common Guild and are confident that the three artists selected will further enhance this excellent reputation that has already been established at la Biennale di Venezia and we look forward to building on this in years to come.”

Katrina Brown, Director, The Common Guild said:

“The Common Guild is pleased and proud to be bringing new works by three such diverse but equally compelling artists to the extra-ordinary arena that is Venice and look forward to introducing their work to audiences at the Palazzo.”

Amanda Catto, Portfolio Manager for Visual Arts at Creative Scotland, said:

“Scotland + Venice has a ten year history of promoting new work at la Biennale di Venezia, the world’s most prestigious international showcase for the visual arts. During that time we have built a strong reputation for Scotland as a centre of excellence for culture and the arts.”

“The exhibition that opens in May will be a further opportunity to consolidate that reputation. In staging three solo presentations by Corin, Duncan and Hayley we aim to offer new perspectives on the work that is being produced here, and to consider that within an international context.”

“The Palazzo Pisani is an excellent venue for the exhibition and one that offers the artists a terrific context for their work. We look forward to welcoming visitors from across the world during the 6 months that the exhibition is open.”

Lloyd Anderson, Director, British Council Scotland said:

“British Council Scotland is proud to continue to support Scotland + Venice, a project that has built up an impressive legacy over the past decade. The three artists representing Scotland at the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia will showcase the vibrancy and diversity of the visual arts scene in Scotland to a global audience. In addition, the professional development programme gives students the unique opportunity to experience a world class cultural event and widen their professional and intercultural skills, equipping young Scots with the skills they need to succeed on a world stage.”

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs said:

“La Biennale di Venezia is the world’s largest and most prestigious showcase for contemporary visual arts, and the ideal showcase for our nation’s world-renowned creativity. Previous Scotland + Venice presentations have achieved tremendous critical success, and I am sure this year’s programme will further enhance Scotland’s global reputation for producing cutting-edge visual art.”

Notes to Editors

1. Scotland + Venice will present the work of Corin Sworn, Duncan Campbell and Hayley Tompkins at the Palazzo Pisani (Sta. Marina), Calle delle Erbe, 6103 Cannaregio, Venice. Open Tuesday – Sunday 10am-6pm. Free entry. www.scotlandandvenice.com
2. The Common Guild is a visual arts organisation based in Glasgow, established in 2006. It presents a dynamic, international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events including gallery-based exhibitions at its current premises as well as non-gallery, one-off projects, talks and collaborations. The Common Guild is committed to presenting artists’ work in interesting and engaging ways and aims to offer access to world-class contemporary art experiences and discussions. www.thecommonguild.org.uk
3. La Biennale di Venezia has, for over a century, been one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in the world. Ever since its foundation in 1895 it has been in the avant-garde, promoting new artistic trends and organising international events in contemporary arts. www.labiennale.org
4. The 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

Preview Days: 29-30-31 May 2013

Open to the public: 1 June – 24 November 2013

5. The Scotland + Venice partnership receives £350,000 core funding from Creative Scotland. The Scotland + Venice partnership reinforces Scotland's reputation as a centre of excellence for the visual arts. Creative Scotland is the national development agency for the arts, screen and creative industries. www.creativescotland.com
6. British Council Scotland's mission is to build long-term international relationships and trust between the people of Scotland and other countries through the exchange of ideas, knowledge and information in the arts and education. Our involvement in the arts arena stretches back to 1947 when we helped to found the Edinburgh International Festival and every year we continue to work on new and exciting cultural projects connecting Scotland and the world.
7. Scotland + Venice will also be presenting a fully illustrated catalogue for the exhibition including texts by Daniel Jewesbury, Aaron Peck, Joe Scotland and Gavin Smith which will be available for the opening of the exhibition.
8. Outset Scotland is now a philanthropic organisation dedicated to supporting contemporary art activity in Scotland. With funds raised from individual patrons and corporate partners, they support art institutions to commission new work, and gift art works to public collections. Outset Scotland launches its inaugural programme of support in 2013, and is delighted to be joining a growing international network of philanthropic organisations - Outset Contemporary Art Fund was first established in London in 2003, and now has groups in Germany, Israel, India, Netherlands, and Greece.
9. Scotland + Venice 2013 is sponsored by Fentimans and Caorunn Gin
Founded in 1905, Fentimans produces its botanically brewed beverages, which include Ginger Beer, Victorian Lemonade, Mandarin & Seville Orange Jigger, Dandelion & Burdock, Curiosity Cola, Rose Lemonade and Tonic Water using the same traditional methods as over 100 years ago by combining the finest herbs, natural flavourings, sugar and brewer's yeast.
www.fentimans.com

Launched in November 2009, Caorunn is a small batch distilled Scottish gin infused with five Celtic botanicals being Rowan Berry, Coul Blush Apple, Heather, Bog Myrtle and Dandelion Leaf. Caorunn is the only gin in the world that is handcrafted at a working malt distillery in the Speyside region of the Scottish Highlands using a Copper Berry Chamber to offer the consumer a truly unique taste. www.caorunngin.com
10. The Information Assistants participating in Scotland + Venice 2013 will be offered the opportunity to contribute to The Skinny's online magazine through a series of reviews and blogs from Venice reporting on any and all aspects of the Biennales various pavilions and events. The Skinny was launched in 2005 with the aim of informing people about Scottish culture, and has recently launched a new edition specific to the Northwest of England. The magazine is free, and covers cutting edge and forward-thinking culture across Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Manchester and Liverpool.

Artist Biographies:

Corin Sworn (b. 1976, London, UK). She completed an MFA at The Glasgow School of Art in 2009 and lives and works in Glasgow. Recent solo exhibitions include Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Timespan Museum and Arts Centre, Helmsdale, Scotland; Art Now at Tate Britain (all 2011); Tramway (2010) and Washington Garcia for Glasgow International (2010). Recent group exhibitions include 'Dialogue for Hands', Three Blows in association with Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art 2012; 'Tomorrow Never Knows' - Jerwood/Film and Video Umbrella Awards, Jerwood Space, London (both 2012); Hors Pistes, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2011); 'Morality', Witte de With, Rotterdam (2010); 'EAST International', Norwich (2009); 'Report on Probability' Kunsthalle Basel (2009) and 'The Psychology of the Pawn' Participant Inc., New York (2008).

Current and forthcoming exhibitions include a solo show at Chisenhale Gallery entitled *The Rag Papers*, London, until 24 March 2013, which will also be shown at Neuer Aachener Kunstverein (NAK) in April 2013.

Corin Sworn is represented by Kendall Koppe Gallery, Glasgow and Blanket Contemporary Inc., Vancouver.

Duncan Campbell (b. 1972 in Dublin, Ireland). He completed an MFA at The Glasgow School of Art in 1998 and lives and works in Glasgow. Recent solo exhibitions include the Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (2012), Belfast Exposed (2011); Artist's Space, New York (2010); The Model, Sligo (2010); Tramway, Glasgow (2010); Chisenhale Gallery, London (2009); Ludlow 38, New York (2009); Kunstverein Munich (2009); MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, Mass. (2009); Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (2009); MUMOK, Vienna (2009); Tate Britain, London (2009); Baltic, Gateshead (2008); ICA, London (2008); and Art Statements, Art Basel 38 (2008), where he was awarded the Baloise Art Prize. Recent group exhibitions include Manifesta 9, Genk, Limburg, Belgium (2012), 'British Art Show 7', Nottingham Contemporary (2010); Gwangju Biennale, South Korea (2010); 'Fight the Power', Museo Nacional Centro de Reina Sofia, Madrid (2009); and Art Now, Tate Britain, London (2006).

Forthcoming exhibitions include 'Roll Over. Reflections on Documentary After Richard Leacock' at Temporary Gallery, Cologne from 16 February - 21 April 2013 and 'Arbeidstid' at Henie Onstad Art Centre, Høvikodden from 23 May - 1 September 2013.

Hayley Tompkins (b. 1971, Leighton Buzzard, UK). She completed an MFA at The Glasgow School of Art in 1998, was nominated for the Becks Futures Prize in 2004 and lives and works in Glasgow. Recent solo exhibitions include a show at Cairn, Pittenweem (2012); 'Currents', Studio Voltaire, London; 'A Piece of Eight', The Modern Institute, Glasgow (both 2011); 'Autobuilding', Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (2009) and 'Transfer' (with Sue Tompkins) Spike Island, Bristol (2007). Recent group exhibitions include the 30th Sao Paulo Biennale (2012); 'Painting Show', Eastside Projects, Birmingham; 'Watercolour', Tate Britain, London; 'Vegetable Loves', Polarcap, West Barnes Studios, Dunbar (all 2011); 'In Memory of Painting 8', Layr Wuestenhagen Contemporary, Vienna; 'At Home/Not At Home (From the collection of Martin and Rebecca Eisenberg)', Hessel Museum, Bard College, New York (curated by Mathew Higgs); 'Ashes to Ashes', AMP, Athens 'Fragments of Machines', IMO, Copenhagen; 'Group Show', Autocenter, Berlin (all 2010); 'Frequency: Mark Garry,

Padraig Timoney, Hayley Tompkins', Hugh Lane Museum, Dublin; 'modern modern', Chelsea Art Museum, New York (both 2009) and 'Open Field', CCA, Glasgow (2008).

Forthcoming exhibitions include a solo exhibition of her work at Aspen Art Museum from 26 July – 22 September 2013. She will also be presenting an exhibition at Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York in November 2013.

Hayley Tompkins is represented by The Modern Institute, Glasgow.



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For all media enquiries, interview requests and images please contact:

Jenny McVean, Sutton PR

E jenny@suttonpr.com

T +44 (0)207 1833577

T +44 (0)7595 217 650