

Issued 21 July

Art Festival ‘up for discussion’ EAF launches new Walks and Talks programme

Adding a new dimension to this year’s Edinburgh Art Festival (27 July – 3 Sept) will be three Art Festival Talks and a series of guided Walks visiting many of the City’s Festival exhibitions.

The three talks will debate the state of **Contemporary Art in Scotland**, the affinities between **Performance Art and Physical Theatre** and **Archives and Memory** looking at the art of the archive used in video, film and theatre. The talks are free and will take place at the EAF Information Station at Stills Gallery. They are an opportunity for audiences and practitioners to explore and discuss some of the themes in this year’s festival.

Leading the debate on Contemporary Art in Scotland on 29 July, will be **Sarah Lowndes**, author of *Social Sculpture* accompanied by **Susanna Beaumont** the Director of doggerfisher gallery and Edinburgh artist **Craig Coulthard**.

Scottish performance artist and poet **Kevin Henderson** and Theatre Director **Wolfgang Hoffman** will discuss Performance Art and Physical Theatre on 13 August. Focusing in particular on how these art forms, which flourished in the Beuys and Kantor years, are being rejuvenated by Fringe venues such as Aurora Nova, which programmes cutting edge physical theatre and dance.

In Archives and Memory on 23 August, a discussion on the art of the archive brings together artist and producer **Stephen Partridge**, who leads the REWIND research project at the University of Dundee which investigates the first two decades of artists’

works in video, **Karl Magee**, archivist of the film director Lindsay Anderson's Archive at Stirling University and **Dave Rushton**, a former member of Art and Language and Director of the Institute of Local Television.

Graham Domke of Inverleith House who devised this year's series of talks said:

'The talks aim to look at a number of different areas of the arts in Scotland. We have selected a group speakers which include academics, archivists and artists to take part and we hope audiences will find the talks both interesting and informative.'

In addition to the talks there will also be a series of themed walking tours run by the Edinburgh Art Festival. The guided walks will be an enjoyable and accessible introduction to the Festival for visitors. **Fame and Fiction** exploring the way in which identities of popular figures and fictitious characters are constructed through visual imagery, looking at the work of Mapplethorpe at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Toulouse-Lautrec at the City Art Centre and Tracey Moffatt at Stills. **Magic, Fantasy, Surrealism** which will be covered in two related tours. The first tour taking in *Thread* at the Ingleby Gallery, David Shrigley's prints at Edinburgh Printmakers and Moyna Flannigan's work at doggerfisher. The second tour looking at Laura Ford's *Armour Boys* at the RSA, Marijke van Warmerdam's work at the Fruitmarket Gallery and *Girlpower & Boyhood* an international group show at Talbot Rice.

The third theme **Remembered Places** explores an artist's journey and recollections of personal experiences which relate to specific environments. The tours will look at work by Andrew Mackenzie at Amber Roome, Barbara Rae at The Scottish Gallery and the City Art Centre's exhibition; *Anne Redpath and The Edinburgh School*.

The guided tours will be twice weekly and leave from various participating galleries. However maps of the guided walks can also be printed out from the EAF website
HYPERLINK "<http://www.edinburghartfestival.com/walks>"

www.edinburghartfestival.com/walks or picked up from Stills Gallery.

Katie Nicoll, EAF Co-ordinator said:

'The Edinburgh Art Festival is delighted to offer, for the first time this year, an accessible and free talks and walks programme. The talks programme highlights some of the most topical elements within the visual arts with a range of speakers who will engage their audience through open discussion.'

The Edinburgh Art Festival is supported by the Scottish Arts Council, the City of Edinburgh Council and British Council Scotland.

ENDS

For further information contact Emma Henderson or Charlotte Kissack, Colman Getty PR, 0131 558 8851, [HYPERLINK "mailto:emma@colmangettypr.co.uk"](mailto:emma@colmangettypr.co.uk) emma@colmangettypr.co.uk, or visit [HYPERLINK "http://www.edinburghartfestival.com"](http://www.edinburghartfestival.com) www.edinburghartfestival.com

Notes to Editors:

The EAF talks last 90 minutes and are scheduled on the following dates:

- Contemporary Art in Scotland - Saturday 29 July at 6pm
- Performance Art and Physical Theatre - Sunday 13 August at 2pm
- Archives and Memory – Wednesday 23 August at 6pm

Katie Nicoll and Graham Domke are available for interview

The Information Station at Stills Gallery is sponsored by Habitat

The EAF walks will leave from various galleries, twice weekly from 3 August until 2 September. Full details and dates are available on the website [HYPERLINK "http://www.edinburghartfestival.com/walks"](http://www.edinburghartfestival.com/walks) www.edinburghartfestival.com/walks

The guided walks run for two hours duration.

The telephone number to book places on the talks is 0131 622 6200 or email eaftalks@stills.org

This year's Edinburgh Art Festival launches at 10.30am on Thursday 27 July at Stills Gallery, Cockburn Street. For more information call Colman Getty on 0131 558 8851.