

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

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Media release

West of Scotland school leavers who love art swap places with London counterparts

From 6-17th July 2009, a group of West of Scotland school leavers will join a group of inner-city London school pupils in a unique joint venture in innovative cultural exchange. The project was devised by the Widening Participation teams at The Glasgow School of Art and London College of Communication.

The principal aim of the programme is to encourage young people from working class backgrounds to develop further their visual art education, knowledge and skills through cultural tourism in Glasgow and London. Together, these young people will soak up the rich, lively, vibrant art scenes in both cities. The intention is to allow participants to share what they know with each other and find out more about these great centres of contemporary art, design and architecture. It is anticipated this experience will have both an educational and personal impact on those participating influencing their future plans, development and confidence.

For the duration of the project the young people will be engaged in a variety of creative activities, ranging from an Alice in Wonderland inspired feast as the launch activity in which those participating will create a dining environment and consume food distorted in scale; miniscule burgers and fries to giant French Fancies to name but a few!

Other exciting opportunities include a lecture in contemporary art from John Beagles (of Beagles and Ramsay), an optical art workshop, traditional landscape painting to creating art from natural objects found in the environment, to a workshop about jobs within the visual arts, a visit to Edinburgh the capital city of Scotland and influential Scottish art centres. They will also respond photographically and through animation to the iconic tourist attractions in London including the London Eye and the Tate Modern. The group will soak up the ambience of the West End theatre district and see the famous production of Hairspray on the stage at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

For more information or to attend the launch on 6th July at The Glasgow School of Art, please contact Eileen Reid - Head of Widening Participation 0141 353 1423 or e.reid@gsa.ac.uk