

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Friday, 30th May 2009
For immediate release

The Glasgow School of Art unveils 2009 Degree Show

The 2009 Degree Show at The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) opens its doors to the public at 10am on Saturday 13th June and will run with free admission until Saturday 20th June at 5pm.

Visitors to the 2009 Degree Show, at one of Europe's leading specialist art schools can expect to view and have the opportunity to purchase works of the highest creative standard. One of the largest degree shows in the United Kingdom approximately 20,000 visitors (including international galleries and fine art collectors) will visit through the world-renowned campus to view the range of work on show.

In **Painting & Printmaking**, Kirsty Macrae will show her large scale oil paintings that focus on fashion, style and identity through a surreal depiction of the world composed using a combination of fashion photography and still life. Julia Heslop's work deals with urban change, referencing the legacy of de-industrialisation and its effect on the socio-cultural psyche of the contemporary British city. She uses the form of the landscape in a rather untraditional manner and is able to convey a sense of loss and lack of nostalgia through the paintings. One of the collages by the John and Mabel Craig Scholarship holder Fiona Brown-Hovelt has been chosen as the image of the GSA Degree Show 2009. Her work comprises found, late 19th century Victoriana and studio born imagery that, when combined, present unity and contradiction.

Over in **Sculpture and Environmental Art**, Lois Whitehead plans to open up 'The Degree Show Support Centre' where visitors can gather for a snack and chat. Over the course of the week, she will write snippets of conversations from that day and leave them inside the tea cups. In the final exhibition, the crockery cabinet in the centre will be lit to show all the altered crockery as a monument to what has occurred in the space.

Caroline Skinner is building a tower in the centre of the stair well of the Mackintosh Museum, from the basement level up to the first floor. The tower will have a church like entrance at the basement level and within the tower there will be a film projection. In addition, recent winners of the Duplex Give Away, Jen Sykes and Ane Ostrem, will be showing their work conceived during a week-long residency in the Glasgow Sculpture Studios' car park.

Making a comment on the current economic climate, Fine Art Photographer Harriet Lowther sent 200 thank you letters to various companies who make any product she uses or owns. For the Degree Show, she will be displaying these letters along with the responses she received, plus other photographic pieces and book works. Also in **Fine Art Photography**, Des Church's work includes 15-20 drawn proposals for sculptures, installations and interventions. He has made some of these into sculptural pieces and will place some of them around the corridors and otherwise overlooked recesses of the Mackintosh Building. Natalie Feather's work is about the

experience of climbing and will feature a large scale drawing piece entitled 'Rock Face' which aims to bring to the audience the density of matter and immediacy of rock.

Sarah Brown from **Silversmithing and Jewellery** is basing her work on the rugged coastline of Islay, the island where she grew up. Focusing on the raw beauty of such an environment, her pieces explore a variety of plants, crustaceans and rock formations. Pauline Edie's jewellery takes its inspiration from children's stories and illustrations, particularly the peculiar balance of surrealism, dark imagery and the limitless nature of the childhood imagination.

Textiles student Paul Roden is displaying a range of interiors based on the varied designs from different fairgrounds of the 1920s and 1970s, from the ornate patterns of earlier years to the kitsch, neon look of fairgrounds in the late 20th century. Stephanie Parr will display her embroidered designs on garments of disused everyday objects including telephone wires, glasses, cigarettes, shoes and chips. Charlotte Horsley will show her range of high-end handwoven interiors that represent the erratic shapes of rock formations.

Janet Kelly from **Product Design**, who is showing a project which looks at what washing will be like in 2025, has been shortlisted and highly commended for the Royal Society of Arts Design Directions competition. Meanwhile, Sara Drummond will be displaying her portable post box which aims to allow rural communities who have lost their post office to still access its services.

In **Product Design Engineering**, Niall Slater will be showing the BrailleBand which has been funded by Shell LiveWIRE's Grand Ideas Scheme. His design will allow visually impaired people to type in Braille on a specially made device. Fellow student James Brown will be showing his design, the Medicoool, which is a temperature controlled vaccine carrier that will allow health workers in developing countries to keep vaccines within their safe temperature range for longer. Another design to feature is Jake Roberts' ElectriCity bike which uses electric power and conveniently folds to become a sturdy trolley able to carry bags, be taken on public transport, and be wheeled inside for a quick grocery shop.

Architecture students will be showing plans for two sustainable building projects. The first is for a musicians retreat in Dumfries and Galloway and the other, a design for a 'house of music' in Stranraer, with the focus on regenerating the town through the careful placement of the building and providing a framework for future development.

GSA graduates include 2009 Turner Prize nominee Lucy Skaer; Turner Prize winners Simon Starling and Douglas Gordon; Beck's Future's winners Roddy Buchanan, Toby Paterson and Rosalind Nashashibi; Architect Gareth Hoskins; Design Director of Jaguar Cars, Ian Callum; Fashion Designers Jonathan Saunders, Louise Gray, Scott Ramsay Kyle and Jamie Bruski Tetsill and Stirling Prize nominees, architects Charlie Sutherland and Charlie Hussey.

The Degree Show 2009 website will go live on Thursday 11th June 2009.

-ENDS-

For further information or a selection of images, contact Alison Hunter, Media Relations Officer, The Glasgow School of Art. Tel: 0141 353 4443 or e-mail a.hunter@gsa.ac.uk. M: 07939 954 836.

Notes for Editors:

Listings:

GSA Degree Show 2009

Saturday 13th June - Saturday 20th June

The Glasgow School of Art

167 Renfrew Street

Glasgow G3 6RQ

Opening times are Saturdays 10am - 5pm, Sunday 10am - 5pm, Monday – Thursday 10am - 9pm,
Friday 10am - 7pm. (Last entry to each building is 30 minutes before closing).

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