



THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Wednesday 10th June 2009

Media Release

GSA Degree Show 2009: Master of Fine Art Show unveiled at Tramway

The Glasgow School of Art's 2009 Master of Fine Art (MFA) Show opens its doors to the public at Tramway, Glasgow on Thursday 18th-Sunday 28th June 2009.

Featuring high quality work from an international stable of young artists, the show promises to be as bold and groundbreaking as ever.

The Master of Fine Art postgraduate programme at The Glasgow School of Art is renowned for attracting applicants from all over the world and for producing graduates who go on to international success. These include 2005 Turner Prize winner Simon Starling, and artists such as Claire Barclay, Rosalind Nashashibi and Martin Boyce who have represented Scotland in such prestigious exhibitions as the Venice Biennale. One of a small number of two-year postgraduate fine art programmes in the UK, the Master of Fine Art has helped to establish Glasgow as a dynamic and international centre for contemporary art.

Exhibiting work this year are artists including black belt karate holder Jack McLean (UK), who plans to celebrate the centenary of the GSA's Mackintosh Building with a simulated burning of the iconic structure to be shown on a large acrylic painting along with maps, photographs and a video animation of the building on fire.

Sculptor Kate Robertson (UK) will be showing three sculptural pieces one of which, entitled 'Expire', will reactivate the Chimney Stack in the grounds of Tramway, so that it puffs clouds of

smoke once again. This subtle spectacle will be a memorable sight to both visitors to Tramway and the residents of the South Side, recalling both the industrial past of the site, and the social implications of this.

Ben Rush's work investigates the memory and significance surrounding the exhibition of the US Apollo 10 capsule as it appeared in the Tramway museum (then the Glasgow Museum of Transportation) in August 1971. The brief five day exhibition celebrated the success of the Apollo programme as the first manned mission to the moon. *Seeking Tranquillity* includes among other artefacts, a life-size 3-dimensional drawing of the Apollo capsule. The artist is especially keen to meet any of the 56,000 people who visited the 1971 blockbuster event and encourages them to come to this current exhibition where they will have the opportunity to record and share their experiences.

John Calcutt, Acting Head of MFA said:

"The MFA is once again proud to be able to exhibit at Tramway, a leading European venue for the visual arts. It should not be forgotten, however, that Tramway's impressive exhibition spaces present a considerable challenge to artists – no matter how experienced. It is a tribute, then, to this group of young MFA artists – now on the threshold of careers as independent artists – that they have approached this challenge with such confidence and assurance. Soon they will be starting to find their way in the world as artists. Many of them, we hope, will choose to make Glasgow their home, and join those other MFA graduates who continue to contribute to the city's artistic life, helping to maintain its vibrancy into the future."

For listings:

Master of Fine Art (MFA) Show

Tramway, Albert Drive, Pollokshields, Glasgow

Thursday 18 June until Sunday 28 June

Opening Times: Tuesday until Fri from 10am - 5pm, Sat and Sun from 12 noon - 5pm and closed on Mondays.

For more information visit: www.tramway.org or call 0141 276 0950.

- ENDS -

For further information or images, please 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:

MFA students 2008/2009 are: Heaven Baek; Amelia Bywater; Matt Collier; Jim Colquhoun; Alexis Dirks; Claire Greenshaw; Ufuk Gueray; Michelle Hannah; Anna Henson; Jenny Hogarth; Or Kadar; Katharina Kiebacher; Paul Knight; Jack McLean; Shelly Nadashi; Nicolas Party; Ian Ramsay Kate Robertson; Ben Rush; Maayke Schurer; Fiona Short; Theo Stamatogiannis Hirofumi Suda; Corin Sworn; Anna Tanner; Risa Tsunegi; Wee Hwee Yeoh; Xupeng Zheng

Tickets for The Glasgow School of Art Master of Fine Art (MFA) show private view on **Wednesday 17 June** from 6pm – 9pm are available to media now by e-mailing press@gsa.ac.uk or by calling 0141 353 4443.