

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009

### **Top new designers showcase their work at the Masters of Fashion Promenade**

The latest crop of top designers from the renowned MDes in Textiles as Fashion course at The Glasgow School of Art will be showing their collections in the **Masters of Fashion Promenade** at the **Mackintosh Gallery, Glasgow School of Art on Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009.**

During the Promenade, models will present the widely varying womenswear collections produced by the seven students on the course. The students from Scotland, England and the US all specialise in different textile disciplines, from knitwear and print to weaving and embroidery. These specialities will be reflected in the garments on display and themes differ from collection to collection. Garments on show will include prints concentrating on textured abstract imagery; knitwear inspired by architectural structures; an eclectic mix of chunky woven skirts, digitally printed t-shirts and fringed suede waistcoats inspired by the weaver Bernat Klein; textured hand knitted men's shirt silhouettes designed for women and inspired by Katherine Hepburn; fresh, floral 1930s inspired trompe l'oeil prints; a collection of lace accessories and finally an unusual take on shoulder padding.

Students on the MDes are: printed textile designer Sarah Milne from Helensburgh; knitwear designer Jennifer Kent from Glasgow; weaver Katie Craib from Glasgow; knitwear designer Charlotte Hess from the US; printed textile designer Francesca Chiorando from Manchester; knitwear designer Jacqueline Kennedy from Uddingston and embroidery designer Jennifer Groundwater from East Kilbride.

The Master of Fashion Promenade comes as The Glasgow School of Art prepares to introduce new courses in the textiles department. Fashion Design as a Post Graduate option will be available from September 2009 and Fashion Design as an Undergraduate option will be available from September 2010. These courses are responding to increasing demand from students to

focus more on fashion design whilst also allowing undergraduate, postgraduate and research provision in both Fashion and Textiles.

Textiles Department Head, Jimmy Stephen-Cran said: "This unique Masters programme supports textile trained designers to develop their textiles into fashion products. What is exciting about the class of 2008 is the polarity of approaches. Some have capitalised on the immediacy of digital technology whereas others have favoured painstaking hand executed approaches. Some have used cool monochromatic colour whereas others have gone for a frenzy. Voluminous silhouettes sit alongside more slender shapes so there is certainly something for everyone!"

Previous textiles graduates from The Glasgow School of Art include internationally-acclaimed fashion designers Jonathan Saunders, Pam Hogg as well as promising new talents Louise Gray, Jamie Bruski Tetsill, Scott Ramsay Kyle and hoisery designers and Scottish Fashion Award winners Bebaroque.

Graduates of the Mdes Textiles as Fashion programme are making their mark as far afield as Hong Kong, Singapore, London and New York and can be found at Philip Treacy, Alexander McQueen, Richard Nicoll, Saville Row, Urban Outfitters, Emma Cook and All Saints.

**The Masters' Fashion Promenade is open to the public at 7pm and 8pm. Tickets for the show are £5.00 and available now from the GSA Shop on 0141 353 4526.**

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For further information or images, please contact Alison Hunter, Media Relations Officer, The Glasgow School of Art. T: 0141 566 1442. M: 07939 954 836.

Notes to Editors:

The Masters in Textiles as Fashion at The Glasgow School of Art is an advanced skills postgraduate programme designed to meet the ambitions of textile graduates who wish to inspire and assert fashion from the "Textiles-outwards" (as opposed to the "Silhouette-inwards").

