

# THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Media release

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## THE FLOWER AND THE GREEN LEAF

GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY

27 Nov 2009 – 23 Jan 2010

Mackintosh Gallery, The Glasgow School of Art

**PREVIEW: THURS 26 NOV 5 – 7PM**

To celebrate the centenary of the Mackintosh Building, The Glasgow School of Art is displaying previously unseen works of art from their archives and other international collections in **The Flower and the Green Leaf** from **27th November 2009 – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010**, an exhibition showing the work and social life of its staff and students during the early years of the twentieth century.

On display will be work from each of the four departments of the time: **Painting and Drawing; Modelling and Sculpture; Design and Decorative Art; Architecture.**

Included will be a set of drawings for the Mackintosh Building by Charles Rennie Mackintosh dated 1910; a green linen bag designed by Grace Wilson Melvin (1892-1977), embroidered in green white and violet, the colours of the suffragette movement; photographs of staff and students in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; life drawings by students of the time and the inaugural Bram Stoker Medal awarded for most imaginative work of the year, dated 1903.

This exhibition explores the following two decades from Charles Rennie Mackintosh's completion of the first half of the celebrated building in 1899, as the School built on its

achievements and became even more truly international in its scope. It was unique in Britain in its ability to attract artists from overseas as well as some of the most highly regarded British practitioners onto its staff: men such as **Jean Delville**, the leading Belgian Symbolist painter, **Maurice Greiffenhagen**, a noted English portraitist, illustrator and decorative artist, **W. E. F. Britten**, who worked on the interior of St Paul's Cathedral in London; **Robert Anning Bell**, a master craftsman with mosaics in Westminster Cathedral to his credit; the Dutch sculptor **Johan Keller**; and the Frenchman **Eugène Bourdon** who ran one of the first Beaux-Arts architectural courses in Britain.

The four departments of the time were noted for their exceptional achievements in producing artists of world renown: **Drawing and Painting** produced several leading artists of the inter-war years including James Cowie, William McCance, Archibald McGlashan, Agnes Miller Parker and Robert Sivell; **Modelling and Sculpture's** staff and students, Albert Hodge, Thomas Clapperton, Archibald Dawson and many others, were responsible for much of the work on Glasgow's public and commercial buildings, such as the Clyde Port Authority, the Mitchell Library and Mercat Building; **Design and Decorative Art** was where the Glasgow Style in the hands of such designers as Jessie M. King, Jessie Newbery and Ann Macbeth held its own alongside new experimental approaches introduced by the French head of Department Adolphe Giralton and his successor Anning Bell; and **Architecture** had its modern continental curriculum. At the same time the School pioneered a highly successful programme of teacher education which influenced art teaching in Scotland over the next thirty years.

A book accompanies the show and will be for sale in the GSA Shop.

**For more information and images please contact Alison Hunter, Media Relations Officer, Glasgow School of Art 0141 566 1442/07939 954 836 or email [a.hunter@gsa.ac.uk](mailto:a.hunter@gsa.ac.uk)**