

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

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Thomas Joshua Cooper awarded an esteemed Guggenheim Fellowship

The Glasgow School of Art's Professor and Senior Researcher in Fine Art, Thomas Joshua Cooper has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, one of the highest international academic accolades available. A highly prestigious acknowledgment of exceptional creative ability in the arts, just 220 fellowships are awarded each year across the entire spectrum of academic disciplines by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, based in New York, New York, USA.

Cooper joins a long list of previous fellows including scores of Nobel, Pulitzer and other prize winners such as Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, W. H. Auden, Aaron Copland, Martha Graham, Langston Hughes, Henry Kissinger, Vladimir Nabokov, Isamu Noguchi, Linus Pauling, Philip Roth, Paul Samuelson, Wendy Wasserstein, Derek Walcott, James Watson, and Eudora Welty.

Thomas Joshua Cooper's award will help support him in finishing his project of the last 19 years which has involved travelling to, and photographing in detail, all the cardinal and extreme land masses surrounding the entire Atlantic Basin - work which spans five continents. The completed work, to be entitled An Atlas of Emptiness and Extremity, has so far taken him to the far reaches of the North and South Poles, Atlantic Coastal Europe and Africa, Antarctica, Central America and South America, giving him access to some of the most inhospitable environments on the planet and the chance to discover new sites which have never been recorded before. The final stage of the project, for which Cooper received the Guggenheim Fellowship, will see Cooper circumnavigate The Atlantic Seaboard of North America, from the border with Central and South America to the northernmost tip of Canada.

A Glasgow resident for the past twenty seven years, during which he has founded the only fine art photography course in the UK, Cooper has held over ninety solo exhibitions since 1971 across Europe and America. He has also published ten books, nine of which have been published during his tenure at The Glasgow School of Art. His work can be

found in public and private collections around the world, including the Art Institute of Chicago; the J. Paul Getty Museum and The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa; the Arts Councils of Scotland and England; the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Tate Gallery, London; and the National Photography Collection at The Scottish National Portrait Gallery and The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh.

Thomas Joshua Cooper said: "This award is one of the great privileges of my life. It equals being asked to provide artwork for the Scottish Parliament, being awarded a Creative Scotland Award and exhibiting at and being collected by the Tate Gallery. I feel the Guggenheim Fellowship is a perfect compliment to my work as Professor and Senior Researcher in Fine Art at The Glasgow School of Art and makes me realise that I am more productive now than at any other time in my life. I am very very grateful indeed to the Guggenheim Foundation for offering me this wonderful opportunity".

For further information and images, please contact Alison Hunter, Media Relations Officer, The Glasgow School of Art on 0141 353 4443 or a.hunter@gsa.ac.uk

Notes to editors

- The Guggenheim Foundation runs two annual competitions, one of which is open to US and Canadian citizens and the other to Latin American and Caribbean citizens. It was established in 1925 by the former United States Senator and Mrs. Simon Guggenheim, in memory of seventeen-year-old John Simon Guggenheim, the elder of their two sons, who died April 26, 1922. The Foundation has sought from its inception to "add to the educational, literary, artistic, and scientific power of this country, and also to provide for the cause of better international understanding," as the Senator explained in his initial Letter of Gift (March 26, 1925). Since its establishment in 1925 the Foundation has granted more than \$265 million in Fellowships to almost 16,500 individuals. Scores of Nobel, Pulitzer, and other prize winners grace the roll of Fellows, including Ansel Adams, W. H. Auden, Aaron Copland, Martha Graham, Langston Hughes, Henry Kissinger, Vladimir Nabokov, Isamu Noguchi, Linus Pauling, Philip Roth, Paul Samuelson, Wendy Wasserstein, Derek Walcott, James Watson, and Eudora Welty. For information on The Foundation, please go to www.gf.org