



# Dovecot Gallery

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## Press Release

### THE SCOTTISH ENDARKENMENT

#### Art and Unreason | 1945 to the Present

*The Scottish Endarkenment: Art and Unreason | 1945 to the Present* opens at Dovecot Gallery on 13 May and runs until 29 August 2016. This multi-layered thematic exhibition curated by Bill Hare and Andrew Patrizio of The University of Edinburgh, produced in collaboration with Dovecot Gallery and with support from Creative Scotland and Dovecot Foundation, presents a comprehensive and complex approach to the challenging concerns which have obsessed many of the most important and innovative Scottish artists since the end of World War Two.

*The Scottish Endarkenment* engages with a wide and varied range of demanding topics from ever-escalating communal and international conflicts, social inequalities and consumer materialism to threatened gender identities, filial traumas and sexual prejudices. These issues are also related to the dialectical tensions which seethe within the Scottish psyche - moral struggles between good and evil, Self and the Other, Jekyll and Hyde. These different, but interrelated themes are imaginatively treated within a wide range of interpretative approaches and experimental practices - through painting to performance; from the overtly horrific to the darkly satirical. Amongst the forty plus exhibits are some rarely seen works by major Scottish artists such as Alan Davie, Joan Eardley, Eduardo Paolozzi, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Boyle Family, John Bellany, Joyce Cairns, Steven Campbell, Alison Watt, Douglas Gordon, Christine Borland, Kenny Hunter and David Shrigley. Along with these established figures there are also notable contributions by younger and emerging artists like Katie Paterson, Kevin Harman, Georgia Horgan and Jonathan Owen. Furthermore there are specially commissioned new works from the artistic duo, Beagles and Ramsay and from Shona Macnaughton.

In tandem with *The Scottish Endarkenment* there will be a programme of related films screened at Edinburgh Filmhouse throughout July and August featuring *The Body Snatcher* (1945), *The Brothers* (1947), *Madeline* (1950), *Death Watch* (1980), *Under the Skin* (2013) and *Macbeth* (2015).

Edinburgh College of Art and Dovecot Gallery are hosting a one-day conference on Friday 17 June at Dovecot in association with the exhibition *The Scottish Endarkenment*. The conference - *Endarkenment | Stories of Unreason in Art and Culture from 1945 to the Present in Scotland and the UK* - builds on the exhibition concept. The format will blend invited speakers including a keynote alongside shorter papers from emerging and established scholars interested in the theme.

*The Scottish Endarkenment* exhibition will headline as part of the Edinburgh Art Festival which runs from 28 July to 28 August 2016.

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to Editors:**

**Exhibition open:** 13 May to 29 August 2016

**Private view:** Thursday 12 May 6-8pm

**Exhibition open to the public (free admission):**

Mon-Sat 10.30am-5.30pm | Daily during August 10am-6pm

Book for associated events at [www.dovecotstudios.com](http://www.dovecotstudios.com)

**\*PRESS/MEDIA PHOTOCALL: WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2016 11:00hrs DOVECOT GALLERY\***

**Press release image credit:**

*Calton Hill*, 2014, ©Jock McFadyen, image courtesy the artist.

**The curators and some artists are available for interview. To arrange an appointment:**

[lizziecowan@dovecotstudios.com](mailto:lizziecowan@dovecotstudios.com)

***The Scottish Endarkenment* images here (image credit document in folder):**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5dy9v2fz55ijguh/AACzJNDNW88PzrdetaH5j3axa?dl=0>

**Scottish Endarkenment Confirmed Artists:**

Alan Davie *Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art loan*

Alison Watt

Beagles & Ramsay (new commission)

Boyle Family

Chad McCail

Christine Borland

David Shrigley

Douglas Gordon

Eduardo Paolozzi *Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and Edinburgh City Art Centre loans*

Fred Crayk

Georgia Horgan

Graham Fagen

Helen Flockhart

Ian Hamilton Finlay *Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art loan*

Joan Eardley

Jock McFadyen

John Bellany *Fleming Collection loan*

John Kirkwood

Jonathan Owen

Joyce Cairns

Julie Roberts

Katie Paterson

Ken Currie

Kenneth Dingwall *University of Edinburgh loan*

Kenny Hunter

Kerry Stewart *Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art loan*

Kevin Harman

Louise Hopkins

Luke Fowler

Lys Hansen

Matthew Inglis *City Art Centre loan*

Pat Douthwaite

Peter Thomson  
Richard Wright *Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art loan*  
Robert Colquhoun *Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art loan*  
Shona Macnaughton (new commission)  
Simon Starling  
Steven Campbell  
Wendy McMurdo *Scottish National Portrait Gallery*  
William Johnstone *Fleming Collection loan*  
William Turnbull *Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and Bank of Scotland loans*

#### **About Bill Hare:**

Bill Hare has taught, written on and promoted Scottish art for over thirty years. During that time he has been a lecturer on Scottish modern art at The University of Edinburgh where he was also Exhibition Organiser at the Talbot Rice Gallery. There he worked at home and abroad with many of the artists now included in *The Scottish Endarkenment*. He has published interviews and articles on such figures as Alan Davie, Eduardo Paolozzi, William Turnbull, Boyle Family, Ian Hamilton Finlay, John Bellany, Steven Campbell, Joyce Cairns, Helen Flockhart, Lys Hansen and Douglas Gordon. He is the author of *Contemporary Painting in Scotland*.

#### **About Andrew Patrizio:**

Andrew Patrizio is Professor of Scottish Visual Culture at Edinburgh College of Art, The University of Edinburgh. He has published two books and numerous articles and catalogue texts. He was a full-time curator devising many shows across the UK and abroad. The book accompanying his exhibition *Anatomy Acts* (2006) won Medical Book of the Year (Royal Society of Medicine). He is one of the steering members of the Edinburgh Environmental Humanities Network and a Trustee of the Little Sparta Trust.

#### **The Filmhouse Edinburgh Screenings:**

11 July – *The Body Snatcher* (1945)  
18 July – *The Brothers* (1947)  
25 July – *Madeline* (1950)  
1 August – *Death Watch* (1980)  
8 August – *Under the Skin* (2013)  
15 August – *Macbeth* (2015)

#### **The Scottish Endarkenment Conference: *Endarkenment:***

***Stories of Unreason in Art and Culture from 1945 to the Present in Scotland and the UK***

**Keynote: (1 hour + Q&A)** Professor Katy Deepwell (Middlesex University, London) on *Witchcraft, the Textile Industry*, and the work of *Georgia Horgan*

**Confirmed Invited Speakers: (30 minutes each + Q&A)** Dr Alan Beveridge (Clinical Psychiatrist, National Health Service, University of Edinburgh) on the work of *RD Laing*, and the motif of the *Divided Self*; Dr Jonny Murray (Lecturer in Film and Director of Design Context, Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh and Curator of the accompanying film programme at The Filmhouse Edinburgh); Shona Macnaughton (Exhibiting Artist), a talk around her interest in the film version of *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* and how it might be rewritten for immaterial digital female bodies.

#### **Friday 17 June 2016 | One-day conference with lunch/refreshments**

Ladies Baths, Dovecot Studios, 10 Infirmery Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LT

**Tickets: General £10 Concession £5 | Students FREE | Booking via [www.dovecotstudios.com](http://www.dovecotstudios.com)**

**Supported by The University of Edinburgh and Dovecot Foundation**

**For press information and further images: Lizzie Cowan, Marketing Coordinator**

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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
*Edinburgh College of Art*

## **About Dovecot Studios:**

### **Dovecot Gallery**

Dovecot Gallery is a landmark centre for contemporary art, craft and design built around a leading international tapestry studio. Occupying an extraordinary building in the heart of Edinburgh, the Gallery works to programme, commission and produce exhibitions and events for audiences and clients who share Dovecot's passion for making and the creative arts.

### **Dovecot Tapestry Studio**

Dovecot Tapestry Studio is a world-renowned producer of hand-woven tapestry and gun-tufted rugs. Continuing a century-long heritage of making and collaboration with leading international contemporary artists, the Studio weavers are dedicated to producing extraordinary and engaging works of art by commission from private and public collectors from across the globe.

### **Dovecot Foundation**

Dovecot Foundation exists to champion Dovecot Tapestry Studio and its place in the world of contemporary art, design and making. The Foundation puts the Studio at the heart of this mission in supporting the Dovecot Apprenticeship Programme, collaborations with leading artists from around the world and development of cultural and educational partnerships. Ultimately, the Foundation seeks to bring the innovative work of contemporary artists and makers to a wider audience.

### **History**

Dovecot Studios was founded in 1912 by the Marquess of Bute, a patron of the arts. The first weavers at Dovecot, Gordon Berry and John Glassbrook, came from the renowned William Morris Studios at Merton Abbey in Wimbledon. Dovecot's first commission was for a series of monumental tapestries for the Marquess' own home at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute.

In 1946, the Studios were incorporated as The Edinburgh Tapestry Company. Dovecot soon became established as a leading contemporary fine art tapestry studio, with works commissioned for major public, corporate and academic institutions worldwide. As a key player in the renaissance of tapestry in the 20th century, Dovecot's Master Weavers worked with many leading contemporary artists including David Hockney, Henry Moore, Frank Stella and RB Kitaj.

Dovecot's Master Weavers continue to work to commission, producing tapestry and tufted rugs for private and public collectors. Major tapestry projects include Alison Watt's *Butterfly* for Scottish Opera's new Theatre Royal, Peter Saville's *Monarch of the Glen* and Magne Furuholmen's *Glass Onion*. Working with artists such as Linder, Than Clark and Garry Fabian Miller on recent rug commissions have further tested the boundaries of creativity and play with what the process allows.