



Contemporary Collections and Collecting in the Scottish Context

In conjunction with the Scottish Arts Council and other partners, the History of Art Department at the University of Glasgow is organising a programme of linked events, which are intended to provide an opportunity to discuss and debate contemporary collections-building by public museums and galleries in Scotland.

In the course of 2009 public museums and galleries across Scotland will present an unprecedented range of contemporary art by Scottish-based and international artists to their audiences. This programme recognises that achievements, priorities, perspectives, partnerships, and responsibilities need to be articulated and shared, if these museums and galleries are to ensure and build on the presence of contemporary art in their collections for the long term and into the future.

The aim of the programme

Over the course of these events, we hope to

- promote alignment of the various related initiatives and funds that support contemporary collections-building in Scotland and provide an updated context and overview of the contemporary collecting landscape
- build a community of stakeholders and initiate a regular forum for identifying priorities and perspectives, and to explore ways of linking them
- further a common understanding of the extent and nature of aspirations across public collections to develop their contemporary acquisitions and programmes.
- identify the most effective ways to represent and address the critical questions about the strategic development and use of contemporary collections across Scotland

Who are the stakeholders?

Artists are invited to attend alongside key individuals from organisations within the museums, visual arts and HE sectors, including members of the visual artists' community, and representatives from the Art Schools, non-collecting institutions and visual arts organisations, and commercial galleries.

What is the proposed programme?

May 29th 2009, Tramway, Glasgow: a panel discussion that seeks to build an overview of current initiatives such as ARTIST Rooms, Art Fund International and National Collecting Scheme Scotland, and provide an opportunity to consider how they sit in relation to one another and to wider ambitions to build collections of contemporary art within the Scottish context.

September 17th 2009, University of Glasgow (date tbc): a day seminar that will include presentations by international curators from municipal institutions on how they build their collections, what relationships and ecologies support them in doing so, and how those relationships have been developed.

December 2009: a plenary session where participants will be invited to reflect on both the panel and seminar events, and take a position on what form they believe future support and priorities for the building of contemporary collections in Scotland could take, and how sustainable contemporary collecting might be achieved.

Panel discussion May 29th 2009 RSVP

We would be grateful if you could please indicate your ability to attend the panel discussion on **Friday May 29 2009** from 2-5.30pm at Tramway (followed by a drinks reception).

Please email your RSVP to Emma Macleod by May 19th, with the subject heading 'Contemporary Collections'. Email: emma.macleod@scottisharts.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

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April 21st 2009

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