

# EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL 2019

## Edinburgh Art Festival 2019 concludes with audience and critical acclaim for 16<sup>th</sup> edition

- 2019 Festival secured praise from critics and audiences alike, with attendances of over 290,000 recorded across the programme and a host of 4 & 5 star reviews
- Work by over 300 Scottish, UK and international artists presented by galleries, historic spaces and venues across Edinburgh
- More than 50 exhibitions and over 140 events featured across the 32-day programme celebrating Edinburgh's vibrant year-round visual arts community
- Over 80% of 2019 programme free to attend with 21 community groups welcomed from across the city to experience hands on art work

**IMAGES AND PRESS INFO AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

With world premieres, major retrospectives and work from established and emerging artists among more than 50 exhibitions presented by galleries, pop up venues and historic spaces across the length and breadth of the city, the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Edinburgh Art Festival concluded on Sunday 25 August having recorded over 290,000 attendances.

The diverse 32-day programme for 2019 featured the work of over 300 artists from Scotland, the rest of the UK and across the world, firmly positioning visual arts at the heart of Edinburgh's world-famous summer festivals and highlighting the vibrancy of the city's year-round visual arts offering.

**Sorcha Carey, Director of Edinburgh Art Festival**, said: "From swimming pools to muted orchestras, Kate Bush videos, deer dancing, tapestries and optical illusions, our 16<sup>th</sup> edition has been a full-on

immersion in the creative possibilities of our art form. It has been a privilege to share the extraordinary breadth and range of visual arts in Edinburgh with communities from across the city and around the world.”

A wide-ranging programme of more than 140 events and talks, including hands on opportunities to make artwork, gave audiences of all ages opportunities to learn more about the inspiration and techniques behind the exhibitions. This included events and for children and their families, 75 percent of which were free to attend. The Festival also worked with 21 community groups across the city and beyond, including SCORE Scotland, ReAct, The Welcoming, Shakti, Grassmarket Community Project and Glasgow Women’s Library, for over 40 free workshops and tours exploring the 2019 programme.

The 2019 Commissions Programme supported five internationally acclaimed artists to create new work; Nathan Coley, Alfredo Jaar, Rosalind Nashashibi, Corin Sworn and Sriwhana Spong. The five commissioned artists animated sites across the city, including Parliament Hall and St Bernard’s Well on the Water of Leith to reflect *Stories for an Uncertain World* and attempt to make sense of today’s ever changing, divided world.

Rosalind Nashashibi’s two-part film inspired by the writing of the sci-fi writer Ursula K. Le Guin will tour to Campsie Line in Dumfries in October, as part of a new initiative supported by the PLACE programme to share work commissioned by the Festival with audiences across Scotland. Audiences in New Zealand will have the opportunity to see Sriwhana Spong’s work *castle-crystal* at Auckland Art Gallery in Spring next year.

The Festival’s annual showcase of early career artists, *Platform: 2019*, selected by artists Monster Chetwynd and Toby Paterson, featured Anna Danielewicz, Joanne Dawson, Harry Maberly and Suds McKenna. The participating artists will continue to be supported through a bespoke mentoring programme.

*Night Walk for Edinburgh* by Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller took audiences on a surreal journey through the dark side of the festival city. A reworked version of this world premiere work will return this winter as part of The Fruitmarket Gallery’s programme.

Two exciting new contemporary art venues hosted their first Edinburgh Art Festival exhibitions, Edinburgh Printmakers’ new home on the site of an old rubber factory presenting with *Deer Dancer* by Hanna Tuulikki and group show *A Machine for Making Authenticity*; and Collective’s reimagined city observatory showing *Migratory Motor Complex* by James Richards.

Other highlights across the 2019 Festival programme included:

World premieres from Samson Young with *Real Music* at Talbot Rice Gallery; *Gateway* by Joana Vasconcelos at Jupiter Artland; and Caroline Achaintre at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop.

Major presentations of leading contemporary artists included: *My Own Private Bauhaus* by David Batchelor at Ingleby; *Grayson Perry: Julie Cope’s Grand Tour* presented by Dovecot Studios; and Anya Gallaccio in Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art’s *NOW* series.

Work by some of the most influential 20th century photographers, including *Cindy Sherman: Early Works, 1975-80* at Stills: Centre for Photography; *ARTIST ROOMS: Self Evidence – Photographs by Woodman, Arbus and Mapplethorpe* at Scottish National Portrait Gallery was presented; alongside new film work from Yulia Kovanova at Edinburgh College of Art and Helen McCrorie at Collective.

Major international surveys and retrospectives also featured in the 2019 programme, with Bridget Riley, and *Cut and Paste: 400 Years of Collage*, both presented by National Galleries of Scotland; *Trisha Brown: Time, Space, Gravity* at Jupiter Artland; *Russia: Royalty & the Romanovs* at The Queen's Gallery; *Wild and Majestic: Romantic Visions of Scotland* at National Museum of Scotland; and *John Busby: Silent Landscape* at The Open Eye Gallery.

In portraiture, the first major retrospective of work by Victoria Crowe, at City Art Centre; group exhibition *Intimate*, and *Writing Heads* from sculptor Nicole Farhi at The Fine Art Society; *Ever After* by Derrick Guild at The Scottish Gallery, and *The Long Look* from Audrey Grant and Norman McBeath at Scottish National Portrait Gallery were presented at the Festival.

Installations by Lucy Wayman, and Adam Benmakhlof at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop; Mary Hurrell at Jupiter Artland; and *Double Disaster (Closing Down)* by Yokollection at Edinburgh College of Art; and group show *All That the Rain Promises and More...* at Arusha Gallery also showcased the next generation of talent.

Edinburgh Art Festival is programmed in partnership with galleries, museums and artist-run spaces across the city, with over 80 percent of the exhibition programme free to attend as part of the Festival's ongoing commitment to ensuring visual art is as accessible as possible for all.

**Edinburgh Art Festival 2020 will run from Thursday 30 July to Sunday 30 August.**

Core funders and major programme supporters for Edinburgh Art Festival are: **Creative Scotland; City of Edinburgh Council; Scottish Government; EventScotland.**

The Commissions Programme is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Scottish Government's Festival Expo Fund, EventScotland and the PLACE Programme, a partnership between the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council, and the Edinburgh Festivals, and supported and administered by Creative Scotland.

*Platform* is made possible thanks to the PLACE Programme, a partnership between the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council, and the Edinburgh Festivals, and supported and administered by Creative Scotland. With additional support from Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh. Mentoring programming supported by the Saltire Inspiring Scotland Programme.

**For more information, please visit [www.edinburghartfestival.com](http://www.edinburghartfestival.com) or follow the Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @EdArtFest #EdArtFest**

**ENDS**

For more information on Edinburgh Art Festival please contact Kate Bouchier-Hayes – [kate@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:kate@thecornershoppr.com) or 07825 335489 and Brian Maycock – [brian@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:brian@thecornershoppr.com) – or 07494 252740.

**Full Edinburgh Art Festival Press Pack including press releases and images available [here](#)**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

- The attendance figures show at least a 2% increase from attendances in 2018
- These attendance figures are not final, as the festival is working to collate the full attendance number from across the programme for the closing weekend

**Edinburgh Art Festival**

Founded in 2004 and now in its 16th edition, Edinburgh Art Festival is the platform for the visual arts at the heart of Edinburgh's August festivals, bringing together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces in a city-wide celebration of the very best in visual art. Each year, the festival features leading international and UK artists alongside the best emerging talent, major survey exhibitions of historic figures, and a special programme of newly commissioned artworks that respond to public and historic sites in the city. Edinburgh Art Festival is a registered charity supported by Creative Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council. For more information, please visit [www.edinburghartfestival.com](http://www.edinburghartfestival.com) or follow the Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @EdArtFest #EdArtFest.

### **Creative Scotland**

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit [www.creativescotland.com](http://www.creativescotland.com). Follow us @creativescots and [www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland)

### **The City of Edinburgh Council**

The City of Edinburgh Council is a funding partner for Edinburgh Art Festival. The Council aims to maintain and build on Edinburgh's reputation as the ideal location for major events and festivals. Working with the city's cultural sector, the Council's arts development team ensures that arts play a vital and lasting role in Edinburgh by developing strategic policy, offering advice on cultural projects and awarding cultural grants.

### **EventScotland**

EventScotland is working to make Scotland the perfect stage for events. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit [www.EventScotland.org](http://www.EventScotland.org). Follow EventScotland on Twitter [@EventScotNews](https://twitter.com/EventScotNews).

EventScotland is a team within VisitScotland's Events Directorate, the national tourism organisation which markets Scotland as a tourism destination across the world, gives support to the tourism industry and brings sustainable tourism growth to Scotland. For more information about VisitScotland see [www.visitscotland.org](http://www.visitscotland.org) or for consumer information on Scotland as a visitor destination see [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).

### **Scottish Government**

The Scottish Government is the devolved government for Scotland and has a range of responsibilities that include: the economy, education, health, justice, rural affairs, housing, environment, equal opportunities, consumer advocacy and advice, transport and taxation.



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

