

# Glasgow international 24 April — 10 May 2020

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@Gifestival #Gi2020

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## Glasgow International announces 2020 programme

Glasgow International  
Friday 24 April – Sunday 10 May 2020  
Press preview: Thursday 23 April 2020

### Highlights of the 2020 Festival will include:

- New solo commissions by UK and international artists **Ana Mazzei, France-Lise McGurn, Yuko Mohri, Nep Sidhu, Duncan Campbell, Martine Syms** and **Jenkin van Zyl**
- Major new film commissions by **Georgina Starr** and **Sarah Forrest**
- A survey exhibition of drawings and paintings by **Carol Rhodes** (b. Edinburgh, 1959; d. Glasgow, 2018), including a number of previously unseen works.
- The first UK exhibition of work by the self-taught Congolese artist **Bodys Isek Kingelez**, (b. Kimbembele-Ihunga, Belgian Congo, 1948; d. Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, 2015) following a recent survey of his work at MoMA, New York
- Introduction of overhauled *Across the City* programme designed to better support Glasgow's freelance artists and curators. Exhibitions by artists including **Donald Rodney, Jimmy Robert, Sharon Hayes, Dawn Mellor, Ingrid Pollard** and **Urara Tsuchiya**
- First £10k *Across the City* award to curatorial collective *Chapter 13* for exhibition of works by **Kadar Attia, Hikaru Fujii** and **Margaret Salmon**
- **Iman Tajik** selected for GI Bursary Award with a 42km performance walk between Glasgow City Centre and Dungavel removal centre

### IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)

The **2020 edition of Glasgow International Festival**, one of the UK's largest and most influential art festivals, will see a host of new commissions and exhibitions showcasing the city as a centre for the production and display of innovative contemporary art.

The 2020 programme will comprise a Director's Programme of larger-scale commissions and exhibitions, curated by the GI Curatorial team of Richard Parry and Poi Marr in collaboration with partners and venues; as well as *Across the City*, a wider programme of exhibitions and projects, selected from proposals by artists, curators and producers who live and work in Glasgow.

For the first time, Glasgow International has received funding from the Scottish Government's EXPO Fund, which has awarded the festival a total of £100,000, enabling more commissions from artists based in the city and a revamped model ensuring that all freelance projects selected for *Across the City* receive funding.

All told, the festival will include approximately 60 new exhibitions and events taking place in arts venues, spaces and cultural institutions across the city, from its largest museums, to other alternative venues such as a former sex club.

The theme for Glasgow International in 2020 will be *Attention*. As much a method or approach as a theme, attention asks us to consider how, where and in whom our attention is placed at a time of seemingly constant distraction through, for instance, social media and 24-hour newsfeeds. The Festival itself is a point of focus, creating new opportunities for looking at, thinking about and spending time with art and encouraging audiences to step outside the everyday.

### Director's Programme

The 2020 Director's Programme promises to be one of the most ambitious to date and Tramway will once again be a focus. The main gallery space will see a new exhibition co-curated with Tramway by the American artist **Martine Syms**, who uses a combination of 2D, installation and digital media to examine black identity and representation. The exhibition is a Glasgow International/Tramway co-commission.

Tramway's largest theatre will host *Quarantaine*, a major new film by **Georgina Starr**. Its title refers to the French word for 'forty', and also alludes to the period of enforced isolation commonly known as quarantine. Through multiple chapters, it follows the initiation of two new recruits into a mysterious, clandestine sisterhood whose pursuit of esoteric knowledge takes place in a secret house of instruction. *Quarantaine* is co-commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella, The Hunterian, Leeds Art Gallery and GI, with Art Fund support through the Moving Image Fund for Museums.

In a further space in the venue visitors will encounter a new installation by the youngest artist in the GI2020 programme, **Jenkin van Zyl**, whose arresting work brings to the fore both performance and queerness and which harnesses motifs and triggers of both pleasure and consensual violence, generating a compelling confrontation with the viewer.

Tramway will host the intricate utopian townscape models of **Bodys Isek Kingelez** (Democratic Republic of Congo/formerly Zaire). While GI 2020 will be the first UK presentation, his work was originally introduced to international audiences via the seminal exhibitions *Magiciens de la Terre* (1989) and *Documenta 11* (2002). His coloured-card constructions conjure elements of fantastical metropolises, projecting an African vision of urbanism for Europe: a transformative mirror image of past impositions of failed European visions on Africa. For GI 2020, a select number of his townscapes will be presented, where visitors will be able to view these extraordinary critiques of the European colonial project.

Alongside Tramway, Kelvin Hall will host a number of key exhibitions. Turner Prize-winner **Duncan Campbell** will present a new large-scale commission involving an electromagnetic display and incorporating animation and sound.

Kelvin Hall's former entrance foyer will host a new commission by the Tokyo-based installation artist **Yuko Mohri**, who reconfigures found objects and everyday items into kinetic sculptures, will showcase the artist's characteristic use of sound and materials; and a new commission by the Brazilian sculptor and installation artist **Ana Mazzei** will occupy a wing of the building upstairs not previously used by the festival.

A survey exhibition of work by the painter **Carol Rhodes**, who died in December 2018, will occupy a temporary exhibition space on the lower floor of Kelvingrove. The exhibition will comprise drawings, paintings and some reference materials in one of the most in-depth presentations of Rhodes's work to date, bringing to the fore drawings, many of which will be previously unseen. Glasgow-based artist **France-Lise McGurn**, whose figurative painting can be seen to express notions of sexuality, ecstasy, consciousness and loss, will present a new installation on the building's upstairs balcony.

The Gallery of Modern Art's largest gallery will host the first solo exhibition in Europe of work by Canadian artist **Nep Sidhu**, whose complex, moving and visually arresting work weaves together the astral and the earthly, drawing on episodes in Sikh history and contemporary culture.

A new, off-site film commission by the multidisciplinary Scottish artist **Sarah Forrest**, who uses elements of theory, fiction and philosophy to explore the notion of the unreliable narrator, will be situated in Langside Halls, a space in the south of the city that will be used as a venue by GI for the first time in 2020.

As a prelude to the Director's Programme, the festival will also be undertaking a newly curated show of unique works on the inverse theme of *Distraction* at Sunday Art Fair (3-6 October, at Ambika P3, London), involving work by a selection of artists either involved in the 2020 programme, or who have shown in past festivals.

### **Across the City**

For 2020, the festival has overhauled its model to better support the wealth of freelance artists, curators and artist-run spaces in Glasgow. Building on initiatives in the 2018 festival, the selection for the 2020 *Across the City* programme was made by a panel of invited curators and artists. The 2020 selectors were **Eoin Dara**, Head of Exhibitions at Dundee Contemporary Arts, **Hanne Mugaas**, Director Kunsthall Stavanger and artist **Alberta Whittle**, alongside Parry and Poi Marr of GI.

Following changes to the festival model for the first time, all projects by freelance practitioners and artist-run spaces that were selected for inclusion received a minimum award of £1,500, with further awards at £3,000, £5,000 and a top award of £10,000.

The £10,000 award for 2020 went to an exhibition curated by collective Chapter 13 including work by **Kadar Attia**, **Hikaru Fujii** and **Margaret Salmon**. Further significant awards were made to artist-run space **Transmission** for an exhibition co-curated with Brazilian artist and performer **Ana Beatriz Almeida**, and the non-profit Many Studios for an exhibition of works by Nigeria-based artist **Ndidi Dike**.

At The Hunterian, a solo exhibition of new work by Berlin-based artist **Jimmy Robert** will explore the intersections between art history and subjectivity, informed by Robert's experience as a black, queer person growing up in both colonised and colonising societies. Gallery Celine will present works by the late **Donald Rodney**, whose work about identity, new media and new technologies made him one of the leading artists of his generation. The exhibition will include the film *The Genome Chronicles* (2009), made following Rodney's death by his close friend, the artist John Akomfrah. A new commission by **Ingrid Pollard** will activate the Lesbian Archive, the largest collection of materials relating to Lesbian culture and history in the UK, at **Glasgow Women's Library**, with an exhibition and a public programme of talks and events.

Elsewhere the Common Guild will present the culmination of **Sharon Hayes's** *Ricerche* suite of films. The works use Pier Paolo Pasolini's 1964 film *Comizi d'amore* (Love Meetings), as a guidepost for an examination of gender, sexuality and contemporary collective identifications. The Modern Institute will showcase two solo exhibitions of work created specifically for the festival across each of its gallery spaces: in Aird's Lane, **Eva Rothschild** and in Osborne Street, **Luke Fowler**. Patricia Fleming Gallery will present a solo project by **Ilana Halperin** in partnership with Mount Stuart, which will take the form of a performance lecture in two parts.

An off-site presentation of new work by the British artist **Dawn Mellor**, the first by the artist in Scotland, explores sexuality, class, obsession and violence, with a particular focus on lesbian desire. A vibrant new commission by **Jacqueline Donachie** will take place at Govan Project Space, alongside an offsite, public artwork which examines the issue of access to Glasgow's built environment and architectural heritage. Queen's Park Railway Club, situated in Queen's Park Station, will undertake a solo exhibition of new work by **Graham Fagen**, the starting point of which is an archive collected over 20 years of letters, notes, name tags and invitations that all spell the artist's name incorrectly.

The GI Bursary Award of £3,000, given to a single recent graduate, was awarded to **Iman Tajik** for his proposal 'Bordered Miles' described by the artist as 'an activist mass performance walk with site installations', linking Glasgow City Centre and the Dungavel immigration removal centre.

Core funders and major programme supporters for Glasgow International Festival 2020 are: **Glasgow Life; Creative Scotland; EventScotland and Scottish Government.**

For a full list of projects in the **Across the City Programme** please see [here](#).

Glasgow International is pleased to announce new members of its **Advisory Board**. For more details [click here](#).

**Richard Parry, Director of Glasgow International Festival said:** "The theme for 2020 is "attention" and this idea of how we pay attention to something or how we attend to ourselves and each other is something we've sought to consider both in our approach to curating the festival, and also how we have remodelled the Across the City open programme, so that every selected freelance project is now funded. We are thrilled that for the first time, the Scottish Government's EXPO Fund is supporting the festival, enabling us to make these changes, and we are enormously excited to be bringing what we consider to be exemplary and varied artistic practices from across the world to this extraordinary city, which is so famed for its artists and the art that it produces."

**Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said:** "Glasgow International has become yet another highlight in Scotland's cultural calendar, showcasing the city's world-class arts scene while boosting the local economy and tourism sector. The £100,000 in awards from the Expo Fund are a recognition of its importance both in Scotland and overseas."

"The festival is already a major draw for international artists, and this funding will help to ensure it maintains its status as a world-leading cultural event."

**Councillor David McDonald, Depute Leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of Glasgow Life, said:** "Glasgow is a city which embraces and celebrates contemporary art and our position as a leading centre for producing and showing exciting new work grows year on year. Glasgow International is central to this success. With each edition it excites, it challenges, and new ideas are explored as a festival with a worldwide reach and reputation remains rooted in the city which inspires and stages it. Exhibitions and projects will be presented across the length and breadth of Glasgow, showcasing both our established cultural venues such as Kelvingrove and GoMA, as well as a rich diversity of alternative spaces that will be featured in the Across the City programme, increasing access to contemporary art across our communities."

**Amanda Catto, Head of Visual Arts, Creative Scotland** commented: "Rooted in the city's rich, diverse and progressive visual arts scene, the GI 2020 programme reflects and contributes to national and international developments in contemporary art and the world we live in. Recognised as a critical, public platform for the work of artists based in Scotland, GI is also a significant opportunity for international artists to stage new work in the unique environment that Glasgow provides. We look forward to welcoming visitors from across the globe to experience some of the very best art being made in these uncertain times. We would like to congratulate GI and all those involved in creating an ambitious programme that will certainly demand and reward attention."

**Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland's Director of Events, said:** "EventScotland is delighted to be continuing its support of the Glasgow International Festival in 2020. The programme continues to build on the success of previous festivals by providing the perfect stage to showcase the best of local and international contemporary art."

"Events play a key role in our visitor economy and as one of the UK's most influential arts festivals, GI 2020 is key part of our portfolio of events and festivals that bring attention to our wonderful array of exciting cities and towns."

## ENDS

### Notes to Editors

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For press images: <https://bit.ly/2mkUqNL>

Accreditation for the Festival is now open at <https://glasgowinternational.org/>

### About Glasgow International

Glasgow International is Scotland's world-renowned biennial festival of contemporary art. Glasgow International showcases the best of local and international art for wide-ranging audiences.

The festival continues to showcase Glasgow as a unique major centre for the production and display of contemporary visual art. Taking place in various venues and locations across the city, including Glasgow's major art spaces and cultural institutions, the Festival is comprised of an ambitious programme which included exhibitions, events, talks, performances and projects by international and Glasgow-based artists.

[twitter.com/GIFestival](https://twitter.com/GIFestival)

[www.facebook.com/gifestival](https://www.facebook.com/gifestival)

[instagram.com/glasgow\\_international](https://www.instagram.com/glasgow_international)

### Glasgow Life

Glasgow Life is an independent charity which provides culture, leisure and community learning services to citizens and visitors to the city on behalf of Glasgow City Council.

We are the custodians of so much of what makes Glasgow a great local and global city and our services, programmes and venues have a deep-rooted connection with the communities and visitors we serve.

Our mission is to inspire our citizens and visitors to lead richer, more active lives through culture, sport and learning; reflecting Glasgow's ambitions to continue to grow as a creative, vibrant and healthy city which enables a high quality of life for its people and connects them with the wider world.

Working across museums, the arts, music, sport, events, festivals, libraries, community facilities, and physical activity, learning and heritage programmes; the scale and reach of our activity makes a real and positive impact on the lives of Glasgow's residents and creates unforgettable experiences for our visitors.

Glasgow Life manages an extensive portfolio of iconic and diverse venues across the city, from Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, and the Riverside Museum to The Mitchell Library; the Emirates Arena; The Burrell Collection; Kelvin Hall; Glasgow Royal Concert Hall; Tramway and the Glasgow Club – Scotland's largest health and fitness network – among many others.

We also manage the city's destination marketing and award-winning PEOPLE MAKE GLASGOW brand as well as the delivery of the city's Tourism and Visitor Plan to 2023; positioning Glasgow as a vibrant, first-choice destination for leisure and business tourists.

For more information, visit [www.glasgowlife.org.uk](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk)

### **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).

### **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](https://twitter.com/creativescots) and [www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland)

### **The Scottish Government Expo Fund**

The Expo Fund aims to build innovation across Scotland's leading festivals, helping to promote Scottish artists overseas and showcasing Scottish creativity through ambitious projects. Since 2008 the fund has awarded more than £25 million to Edinburgh's festivals, leaving a lasting legacy of new works and tourism opportunities.

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