

GLASGOW INTER- NATIONAL

For Immediate Release

5 April 2017

**GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL TO RETURN FROM 20 APRIL – 7 MAY 2018
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF RICHARD PARRY**

Glasgow International today announces that it will return for its eighth edition in 2018, under the direction of Richard Parry, who joins the festival after serving as Curator-Director of the Grundy Art Gallery in Blackpool. Parry will bring his unique vision to the event, which as one of the UK's largest and most influential art festivals showcases Glasgow as an important location for the production and display of contemporary visual art.

Taking place in various venues and locations across the city, including its major spaces, the Festival will again be comprised of an ambitious programme, which includes exhibitions, events, talks, performances and projects, by prominent and emerging Scottish and international artists. Continuing to grow with each edition, Glasgow International hosts an ambitious programme of new works, site-specific commissions, new venues, exhibitions and events and showcases the city as one of the world's most important creative hubs for contemporary visual art.

Richard Parry brings a wealth of experience to his new role as Director of Glasgow International. As Curator-Director of the Grundy Art Gallery between 2013 and 2017, he curated and organised over 25 exhibitions. Following the group exhibition *Sensory Systems* (2015), Parry was awarded an Art Fund New Collecting Award and in 2016 curated *NEON: The Charged Line*, the largest exhibition of neon-based art yet staged in the UK.

Parry's appointment follows the departure of Sarah McCrory, who directed the 2014 and 2016 editions, and was successful in doubling the amount of programming for the Festival, with the last Glasgow International showing work by more than 220 of the best local and international artists at 75 locations across the city of Glasgow.

The eighth edition of Glasgow International will take place from 20 April – 7 May 2018. Further details of the programme will be announced in autumn 2017. The preview day for the 2018 Festival will take place on 19 April 2018.

Richard Parry, Director of Glasgow International, said: “I am thrilled and deeply honoured to be joining Glasgow International as its new Director. Glasgow has a contemporary art scene to rival that of any city in the world and Glasgow International has played an increasingly significant role since its inception over a decade ago. I look forward to building on the programme of my predecessors, whom I hold in high regard, and working with artists based here and internationally to develop its next chapter.”

Jill Miller OBE, Director of Cultural Services at Glasgow Life, said: “It is fantastic to welcome Richard Parry as the new Director of Glasgow International. His fresh perspective and inspiration will drive forward the festival as it continues to lead the way in presenting the very best in contemporary visual art. Glasgow International is at the heart of the city’s hugely successful contemporary art scene and its growing reputation throughout the world, and I look forward to the festival going from strength to strength under Richard’s leadership.”

Amanda Catto, Head of Visual Arts at Creative Scotland, said: “Since its founding the GI Festival has contributed significantly to the country’s growing reputation as a centre of excellence for contemporary art and we are delighted to welcome Richard Parry to the Directorship. GI is a key international platform for the visual arts in Scotland and has earned a strong reputation for the range, depth and vigour of its programme. We are excited by the breadth of vision and experience that Richard brings to the role and we look forward to hearing more about his plans for 2018 and beyond.”

Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland’s Director of Events, said: “Scotland is the perfect stage for events and the Glasgow International Festival is a wonderful celebration of our thriving visual arts sector. EventScotland is delighted the Festival will be returning in 2018 under the direction of Richard Parry. I’m sure he will carry on the good work of Sarah McCrory in continuing to grow the Festival and showcasing the city as hub of artistic creativity to the world.”

Notes to Editors

Glasgow International is a world-renowned biennial festival of contemporary art. Glasgow International showcases the best of local and international art for wide-ranging audiences. The eight edition will take place from 20 April – 7 May 2018, under the guidance of new Director, Richard Parry.

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 was comprised of an ambitious programme which included exhibitions, events, talks, performances and projects by international and Glasgow-based artists.

twitter.com/GIFestival

www.facebook.com/gifestival

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

Richard Parry was previously Curator-Director of the Grundy Art Gallery between 2013 and 2017. In that time he has curated and organised over 25 exhibitions, including solo exhibitions by Mark Leckey, Heather Phillipson, Jennet Thomas, Matt Stokes and Rob Crosse.

Following the group exhibition *Sensory Systems* (2015), Parry was awarded an Art Fund New Collecting Award and in 2016 curated *NEON: The Charged Line*, the largest exhibition of neon-based art yet staged in the UK including Joseph Kosuth, Fiona Banner, François Morellet, Mai-Thu Perret, Eddie Peake and Paulina Olowska.

From 2008 to 2013 Parry was Assistant Curator at the Hayward Gallery, where he organised exhibitions and projects including *Psycho Buildings* (2008), *Walking in My Mind* (2009), *The New Décor* (2010), *Tracey Emin* (2011), *Wide Open School* (2012). Prior to the Hayward, Parry was Exhibitions Assistant at the British Council. Parry is a critic and writer and has regularly written for art magazines and online platforms including *Frieze*, *Art Review* and *Modern Painters*.

About the Festival's funders:

(i) Glasgow Life is the charity which runs services and facilities on behalf of Glasgow City Council that includes arts, music, major events, libraries, museums and sport. We work in every area of the city and with every community to try and inspire Glasgow's citizens and visitors to lead richer and more active lives through culture, sport and learning. Glasgow Life also stages high profile events such as Celtic Connections, the World Pipe Band Championships, Aye Write! Glasgow's Book Festival, Glasgow Loves Christmas and major sporting events such as the Ingnis Asset Management Women's 10K road race and The Bank of Scotland Great Scottish Run.

(ii) 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. Creative Scotland enables 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.

Glasgow International is one of Creative Scotland's Regularly Funded Organisations.

For further information about Creative Scotland please visit:

www.creativescotland.com. Follow: [@creativescotsand](https://twitter.com/creativescotsand) www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland

(iii) 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. Follow EventScotland on Twitter [@EventScotNews](https://twitter.com/EventScotNews). EventScotland a team in the VisitScotland 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.

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