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Press release

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GLASGOW INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES 2018 PROGRAMME

Glasgow International
20 April – 7 May 2018
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Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art is pleased to announce details of the programme for its eighth edition, opening on 20 April 2018. Under the new direction of Richard Parry, who joins the festival after serving as Curator-Director of the Grundy Art Gallery in Blackpool, the 2018 programme comprises new works, site-specific commissions, exhibitions and events across over 70 venues and spaces in the north, south, east and west of the city.

As one of the UK's largest and most influential art festivals, it showcases Glasgow as an important location for the production and display of contemporary visual art. After seven successful editions, it is a festival that has quickly established itself as an essential juncture in the international art calendar. The aim is to showcase some of the best and most exciting work being made in Scotland and across the UK, but also to introduce powerful international work to audiences in Glasgow.

Glasgow International 2018 will include a Director's Programme, curated by Parry, as well as a wider programme of exhibitions and projects led by artists, curators and producers who live and work in the city.

This year's Director's Programme begins with the large group exhibition *Cellular World* at GoMA, which will introduce audiences to key themes that will resurface in other commissions. Prominent concepts will include ideas of the 'cyborg', of artificial intelligence (AI) and of avatars, at a time when most of us rely on smartphones and have an online persona through social media.

In light of era-defining changes such as the Brexit referendum result and the election of Donald Trump that have occurred since the last edition in April 2016, many of the artworks and exhibitions across the entire programme will communicate a sense of how artists are responding to the new context in which we now find ourselves. Visitors will encounter artwork carrying a renewed sense of urgency, in particular around certain issues such as personal identity and social change, as well as work that jolts us to imagine new fictional futures.

Alongside the *Cellular World* exhibition, the Director's Programme will include substantial new commissions in established favourite venues such as Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and Tramway, as well as more unconventional sites across the city, such as Film City in Govan. This, together with the wider festival programme taking place throughout Glasgow, will encourage audiences to discover and re-discover parts of the city which might less frequently receive the spotlight.

Highlights for the 2018 Festival will include:

- **Solo exhibitions** by international artists including **Mark Leckey, Lubaina Himid, Urs Fischer,** and **Duggie Fields** and Glasgow-based artists including **Stephen Sutcliffe, Graham Eatough,** and **Michelle Hannah**
- **Major new commissions and projects** by Canadian artist **Kapwani Kiwanga,** British artists **Linder** and **Tai Shani,** Montreal-based artist **Nadia Myre,** and Glasgow-based artists **Torsten Lauschmann** and **Aniara Omann**
- **A major group exhibition** at the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA), entitled *Cellular World*, which will bring together new commissions and existing work by artists including **Joseph Buckley, Jamie Crewe, Jesse Darling, Cécile B. Evans, Lynn Hershman-Leeson, E. Jane, Sam Keogh, Mai-Thu Perret** and **John Russell**
- Over **45 group shows** and **35 solo exhibitions** by Glasgow-based, UK, and international artists
- Over **190 artists** to be featured across a number of ambitious projects
- Over **130 Glasgow-based artists and with representation from at least 30 other countries with artists participating from Africa, Asia, Europe, South Pacific, South and North America**
- **Diverse new venues** used across the city for festival programming including Film City and Platform Swimming Pool, Easterhouse

Group Exhibitions

The Director's Programme will be the heart and cornerstone of the forthcoming Glasgow International and curated by new Director Richard Parry.

At the core of the 2018 Director's Programme of Glasgow International will be a group exhibition in Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) including work by **Joseph Buckley, Jesse Darling, Cécile B. Evans, Lynn Hershman-Leeson, E. Jane, Sam Keogh, Mai-Thu Perret** and **John Russell**, as well as emerging Glasgow-based artist **Jamie Crewe**. Further artists will be announced in due course.

Entitled *Cellular World*, the exhibition will bring together new commissions and existing work by artists examining the interface between humans and technology, reflecting on how our current situation sits on a precipice between utopia and dystopia. The works on show will explore ideas of the cyborg and the avatar raising questions of identity and individual and collective consciousness at a time of prolific social change and uncertainty, when reality can often seem more like science fiction.

John Russell, a member of the highly influential 'BANK' collective that was active in the 1990s, will create a large-scale new canvas commission. New-York-based artist E Jane will undertake a residency at Cove Park prior to the festival, developing a new iteration of her installation Lavendra which evokes a powerful subjectivity, involving the voices of black female pop divas.

Solo exhibitions

Three ambitious solo exhibitions will be presented at Tramway as part of the Director's Programme. The largest solo commission will be **Mark Leckey** (Tramway T2), often regarded as one of the most important artists dealing with 'post-internet' culture. Leckey will undertake a new and ambitious installation of scale in the main exhibition space at Tramway. The exhibition, co-commissioned with Tramway, one of the largest gallery spaces in Europe, and will come ten years after Leckey won the Turner Prize.

Also at Tramway, there will be major new commissions by artists **Kapwani Kiwanga**, (Tramway T5), and **Tai Shani** (Tramway T1). Paris-based Canadian artist Kiwanga will create a new installation of sculptural works exploring afro-futurism through a perspective of geological time. The exhibition will draw on the notion that the continent of Africa is heading towards Europe at the rate of 1cm per year, eventually to 'swallow' it.

London-based artist Tai Shani will create a large-scale immersive installation entitled *Dark Continent: City on the Edge of Time*. The installation will function as a site for performance, which will be filmed and the sequences returned to the installation. The work is an experimental adaptation of Christine de Pizan's 1405 protofeminist book, *The Book of the City of Ladies* and will incorporate 12 characters drawn from feminist histories and science fiction, performed by actors delivering monologues that explore female subjectivity. This spectacular project will premiere at Glasgow International and travel to The Tetley in Leeds as a solo show, with further partial presentations at Nottingham Contemporary and the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, with additional screenings at Wysing Arts Centre and the Whitechapel Gallery, London.

The festival will present an essential body of new work by UK artist **Lubaina Himid**, commissioned for the main hall of the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Himid will create new suspended sculptures based on a Japanese kite within the main hall of one of the best loved galleries in the city.

Himid, who has an MBE for services to Black Woman's Art, is particularly celebrated for giving voice to communities who are underrepresented and challenging institutional invisibility. Her work reflects themes of belonging, showing the contribution of black people to the cultural landscape of Britain.

Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) will present a solo exhibition of **Ross Birrell** that will bring together major projects originally commissioned for documenta 14.

The Modern Institute will present two major solo exhibitions across their Osborne Street Gallery and Aird's Lane space. In Aird's Lane, a solo exhibition of new works by **Urs Fischer** will be presented. A historical solo show of the work of **Duggie Fields** will be presented in Osborne Street. This exhibition will combine seminal works by the artist including video and sound pieces - a context which explores Fields' position as an artist and cultural phenomenon.

Michelle Hannah will present *KEENER*, a new durational performance and exhibition taking place at The Savings Bank, exploring diverse thematic tropes including those found in Italian poet Giacomo Leopardi, Cosmic Pessimism, the materiality of Fashion/Corporate events, Post-Digital identity and the Irish tradition of 'Keeners'.

An intimate examination of **Ulrike Ottinger's** photographic and moving image practice will be presented at the Hunterian Art Gallery, curated by Dominic Paterson.

New Commissions

The wider programme will include a commission by Glasgow Women's Library of new work by **Linder** which will feature the launch of Glasgow Women's Library's new Flag series.

The Glasgow School of Art will commission an ambitious new body of research and work by Glasgow-based artist **Torsten Lauschmann** combining abstraction, humour, politics and art. Glasgow Print Studio will celebrate the work of **Ciara Phillips** with a site-specific installation of her work made in collaboration with the Glasgow Print Studio Master Printers.

The artist-led sector will be represented by bold, political and challenging projects examining identity, race, politics, fatherhood, queer feminist photography and our current 'international' position. These projects include **Transmission Gallery's** project with **iQhiya**, a collective of South African 'womxn' artists, who will respond to the gendered and racialised expectations - and erasure - of 'womxn' artists of colour in Scotland.

Market Gallery will work with artists **Aniara Omann** and **Gary Zhexi Zhang** utilising concepts derived from consciousness-based reality, quantum physics and microbiology, to explore the fluidity and contradictions between disparate systems.

Code-Switching is a solo presentation of new work from Montreal-based artist **Nadia Myre**, responding to the history of clay tobacco pipe production in Glasgow. A by-product of the tobacco trade with the New World, the pipes were one of the first 'disposable' items to enter the market, purchased pre-stuffed with tobacco, with the clay pipe incrementally broken off in segments as they were smoked.

Curated by **Mother Tongue**, Myre's new work in response to this aspect of Glasgow's colonial past will be explored in archaeological and participatory form.

Rosie O'Grady has been awarded the **Glasgow International Open Glasgow Bursary** for her new project that will agitate representations of Margaret Macdonald, through re-imagining and realising her famous *May Queen* gesso panel design as a crop circle. Margaret was Charles Rennie Mackintosh's wife and this project intends to represent her own artistic contribution in the 150th year of his birth from a feminist perspective. Through this work, O'Grady will also refer to nuclear semiotics, sexuality, risk-assessment, distress signals and fertility.

Augustas Serapinas' exhibition at **David Dale Gallery** will be the artist's first UK institutional solo exhibition, and one of his most ambitious to date. The exhibition will be a major commission of new installation work by Serapinas spanning multiple spaces within the organisation's building, involving individuals from neighbouring businesses.

The Glasgow International 2018 programme will also include a partnership project celebrating Scotland's forthcoming Year of Young People with exciting details due to be announced shortly.

New venues

After a three phase, £3.5 million redevelopment and occupation of the beautiful, beaux arts Govan Town Hall, **Film City Glasgow** has firmly established itself as the heart and soul of Scotland's film and television industry.

As part of the Director's Programme, the festival will present a film and off-site installation, entitled *No End to Enderby*, by Glasgow-based theatre-maker **Graham Eatough** and artist **Steve Sutcliffe**. This major new commission is developed in partnership with LUX Artists' Moving Image and co-commissioned by Manchester International Festival, The Whitworth Gallery, University of Manchester, Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art and Kunsterhaus Stuttgart. The commission will supported by the Contemporary Art Society Annual Award 2015.

No End to Enderby will be based on Anthony Burgess's series of Enderby novels and will take the form of two short films to be shown as part of an installation exploring the cultural figure of the artist and ideas of authenticity and posterity through theatrical performances and irreverent humour. The two films will adapt the very first and last chapters of the four novel series.

Glasgow International will also undertake a project with Festival 2018 – a dynamic cultural festival which will run alongside the inaugural European Championships. The commission will celebrate synergies between the two leading creative European host cities, Glasgow and Berlin.

It will aim to bring international profile and attention to the city and capitalise on Glasgow and Scotland's international reputation for creative excellence. Further details will be announced in early 2018.

Events

A film screening by **Henry Coombes** and an event series curated by **Love Unlimited** will be held at Easterhouse Swimming Pool at The Bridge in association with Platform.

Project Ability will present *I'm Going To Tell You About My Life*, a performative action conceived by Spanish artist **Esther Ferrer**. The piece advocates for a pluralist society by presenting language as a palpable manifestation of diversity. In partnership with this event, **Mónica Laiseca** has curated an event, entitled *MINIMAL/POOR/PRESENT*. Jointly, the two projects claim a continuity and intensified relevance for Ferrer's work in the context of Brexit, amidst global instability and deepening social tensions.

Festival Re-Brand

2018 marks a brand re-refresh for Glasgow International, working with Glasgow-based designers Cause & Effect to bring a new brand identity to this edition. The font has been designed by Glasgow School of Art graduate Imogen Ayres, of Möbel Type an independent foundry for typefaces.

Further artists and details of the Glasgow International 2018 programme will be announced in early 2018.

Richard Parry, Director of Glasgow International, said: "It is a huge honour and privilege to be taking on the role of Director of Glasgow International. I can't think of a time when it's been more urgent to listen to the voices of artists, who amidst all the tectonic changes occurring in society and politics, remind us of what it means to be human. This edition of Glasgow International will give audiences an unparalleled opportunity to see how artists in Scotland and further afield are encouraging us to unearth deeper truths and see behind the mask of everyday life as it is often presented to us. Through the exhibitions and events in both new buildings and established favourites, we aim to open up the festival to people from all walks of life, lifting the lid on the unique and pre-eminent centre of artistic production that is Glasgow."

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. From our more established cultural venues such as **Kelvingrove** and **GoMA**, there will be productions in Govan and Easterhouse, increasing access to contemporary art across our communities."

Amanda Catto, Head of Visual Arts at Creative Scotland, said: "The depth and range of the 2018 GI Festival is remarkable and we congratulate all those involved for bringing such a rich programme to life. Glasgow is one of the most interesting and dynamic centres for contemporary art in the UK. The strength and diversity of the work being produced year-round, by artists and arts organisations across the city, has gained national and international recognition. GI amplifies this, providing visitors from Scotland and further afield with opportunities to engage with some of the very best art being made today. There is much to look forward to and we urge people to get the dates in their diaries now."

Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland Director of Events, said: "Since its inception in 2005, the Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art has gone from strength to strength and has firmly establish itself as one of the UK's most influential art festivals, helping shine a spotlight on Scotland's reputation as the perfect stage for events. This year's programme brilliantly reflects the technological and social impacts on our lives as well as celebrating the events going on around us, including **Scotland's Year of Young People** and the inaugural **European Champions** in Glasgow and Berlin. **EventScotland** is delighted to supporter of Glasgow International as it continues to champion visual art."

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.

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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.

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. Creative Scotland distributes funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit:

www.creativescotland.com

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(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.

(iv) **The Year of Young People 2018** will be the next of the Scottish Government's series of themed years, following the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017. The Year of Young People (YoYP 2018) will inspire Scotland through its young people aged 8 to 26, celebrating their achievements, valuing their contributions to communities and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally. Central to YoYP 2018 will be a celebratory events programme that puts young people at the heart of its development and delivery, creating new and valuable experiences for young Scots and the wider public, with links to the inaugural 2018 European Championships.

Over 200 young people throughout Scotland are currently being recruited to become YoYP 2018 Ambassadors. Ambassadors will ensure that people and organisations in their communities know about what's happening and will lead on projects and activities to create events and opportunities to celebrate young people. The Year of Young People will have six themes which were developed in co-production with young people themselves: Participation, Education, Health and Wellbeing, Equality and Discrimination, Enterprise and Regeneration and Culture. Further information on what's happening and how people can get involved can be found on the new website www.yoyp2018.scot or @YOYP2018 on Twitter.

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