



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## *News Release*

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### **Complex history of archived items inspires eclectic art show**

A Milanese version of table tennis, an amphibious symbol of far right propaganda, and a vast tapestry of paintings all form part of a new show in the University's Talbot Rice gallery.

For his show, *LOOKY LOOKY*, artist Jacob Kerray's was invited to explore the University of Edinburgh Collections. Tracing the knotted and complex history of its items inspired new work.

The show, part of the Talbot Rice Gallery's ongoing TRG3 commissions, reflects Kerray's interests in football, pro wrestling and historical painting. It explores themes of hierarchies, fandom, colonialism and mythology.

Kerray has created a tapestry of paintings to dominate the curved wall in the gallery's Round Room. This features historical figures including Saint George and Joao Havelange, the corrupt former FIFA President, alongside corporate logos from Marlboro Cigarettes and Emirates Airlines.

Colonialist maps are merged with images of the introduction of football to Kenya. The work also references John Derrick's 1581 book *The Image of Ireland*, which recounts the subjugation of Irish rebels by Elizabethan forces.

An Eduardo Paolozzi plaster cast frog from the University Collections has been chosen to reflect Pepe, an internet meme that has become synonymous with far right politics.

The rules, paraphernalia and ethics of sport are key to the show. Kerray has created a table-tennis game for visitors to play. Each paddle is individually designed and the table is emblazoned with the colours and badges of Italian football rivals Inter Milan and AC Milan.

The show – which runs 28 July to 30 September – is part of the Edinburgh Art Festival. Entry is free.

Jacob Kerray said: "I usually begin by nicking an old painting or picture, usually one that's not that famous or, even better, one made in a culture pre-renaissance, pre-fame, pre-artist as legend. I copy quickly, loosely and often badly. This gives me a composition and then the playing begins."

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“Painting is a way to continue, and that is all I really desire from the work: to continue and be excited about the next one, and the next one. You should just follow whatever makes you laugh, or feel sad, or whatever.”

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