



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

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PHOTO CALL

**12.15PM, TUESDAY 24 JULY 2018
EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART FIRE STATION
76-78 LAURISTON PLACE, EH3 9DE**

Cabinets of curious glassware reflect on rare flora and fauna

Glass sculptures decorated with diamond dust, images of rare wildlife species and handwritten words from writer Alasdair Gray feature in this year's Edinburgh Art Festival.

Artist Siobhan Healy's eclectic exhibition is the result of research into endangered plants and animals during her year-long residency at Edinburgh College of Art.

Cabinets full of more than 30 intricate glass artworks will be on display at the Edinburgh College of Art Fire Station from 26 July until 26 August.

The sculptures' shapes and hand-painted designs have been inspired by an array of protected flora and fauna found in the UK. These include the scarcely seen ghost orchid, coral found in reefs off the west coast of Scotland and a rare species of comma butterfly.

Adorning the glass with precious materials – such as diamond dust, crystals and silver – underlines the importance of treasuring these species and emphasises the threat of them becoming extinct.

Ms Healy has collaborated with the acclaimed artist and writer Alasdair Gray, whose words are emblazoned across a number of glass vessels. His original writings call on humankind to act now and help save the environment we live in.

A number of glass shells created using 3D printing will also feature in the collection. All slightly different, they reflect each organism's uniqueness.

The *Biodiversity* exhibition has been influenced by Ms Healy's work in Edinburgh's Geddes Garden – an urban wildlife sanctuary that encourages protected species to thrive. The artist has also collaborated with scientists from across the University of Edinburgh.

Ms Healy said: "My work often crosses the boundaries between art and science. I am delighted to have worked with so many inspiring people to create this showcase. I have an ongoing relationship with Alasdair Gray, and his input has been invaluable. I hope that the cabinets of curiosities will encourage people to reflect on our environment and the beauty found there."

For further information please contact: Kathryn Darcus, Press and PR Office:
kathryn.darcus@ed.ac.uk; 0131 651 5587; 07875 395069

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