



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

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Spy Week events give literary experts a licence to thrill Students' art adds bursts of modern colour to historic home

Mirrored pyramids, a model dinosaur and an eruption of multi-coloured balls are among the thought-provoking and playful artworks created around a 300 year-old stately home.

Newhailes House in Musselburgh will host a range of work by students, staff members and graduates from Edinburgh College of Art (ECA). The show runs from 7 April - 30 October.

In partnership with National Trust Scotland (NTS), ECA artists have carefully researched the building and its history. They will draw inspiration from its colour palette, inscriptions, existing paintings and the lives of previous residents.

The Georgian estate has been carefully conserved by NTS, giving the impression it has been left untouched since it was a working house.

Sculpture student Rachel McLennan's mirror-clad pyramids will be placed throughout the house to represent traditional hierarchies in stately homes.

A *T. Rex* skeleton created by Kenny Hunter, Director of the ECA Sculpture Programme, has been made in a deliberately unthreatening pose – its prehistoric menace diminished by extinction. Student Katie Strachan's work gives the illusion that a colourful ball pit has spilled into the formal setting.

A number of artists have been inspired by people that once inhabited the historic building. Student Anna Vesaluoma's decorative screen depicts scenes of servants working.

David Moore, ECA tutor, and artist Kate Davis were inspired by former Lady of the Manor, Christian Dalrymple. In 1792, she was one of the few women to inherit a whole estate in her own right, yet there are no known portraits of Miss Dalrymple. She allegedly thought herself unattractive. Only a silhouette survives.

David and Kate have created three life-size silhouettes of her and placed them around the house's exterior to give the impression that Miss Dalrymple is gazing out at visitors.

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Student Jessica Gasson's artwork is also situated on the grounds. Her huge lawn stencil – drawn with paint used to line football fields – mirrors decorative patterns from inside Newhailes House.

Jo Edwardson's yellow egg-shaped sculpture provides a flash of neon in the dressing room. Meanwhile, Keiran Mitchell's piece plays with the idea of collecting in Newhailes' now empty library – once home to one of the UK's largest private book collection – which he has partially substituted with plants and bottles.

Further artworks on show include modern portraits painted on aluminium by student Lana Svirejeva and an interactive audio tour by recent ECA graduate, David Haslam.

Kenny Hunter, project manager and ECA Director of the Sculpture Programme, said: "I am delighted with the wide variety and high quality of work our students from the School of Art have produced. This productive partnership with National Trust Scotland has given us the unique opportunity to create site-specific work within a remarkable space – left largely untouched since the family left. It's highly decorative surfaces and fixtures are a complete contrast from the minimalist white cube setting we are used to working in."

Mark McLean, National Trust Scotland Learning Officer, said: "This is a marvellous opportunity to show off our amazing property and to engage with our visitors in a completely fresh and creative way. The imaginative insights these artists have brought to Newhailes have allowed us reflect more fully on what we hold in trust for the people of Scotland. Newhailes was, from its inception, at the cutting edge of art and design and "working through art" with ECA has been a fascinating new chapter in that story."

Allied Antagonists is open to view by guided tour at Newhailes House Thursday to Monday from 12.30-3.30pm every day from 7 April - 30 October, and seven days a week in July and August. Tours can be booked via the Newhailes House website or telephone: 0131 653 5599. Tickets are free for NTS members and between £9 and £12.50 for the general public.

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The fictional and real worlds of spying and espionage are being explored during a literary Spy Week organised by the University of Edinburgh.

Events on the history of secret services, talks by celebrated spy writers and a public lecture on the relationship between Britain's best loved agent, James Bond, and the real world of intelligence are among the highlights. The annual event runs from Sunday, April 10 to Friday, April 15.

Best-selling author and University of Edinburgh alumna Dame Stella Rimington, who was the first woman to head MI5, will explore the theme of women in spy fiction in conversation with Professor Penny Fielding, Grierson Chair of English at the University of Edinburgh.

Dame Stella will also join a discussion on the history, current events and potential future trends in the worlds of intelligence and counterintelligence. Also taking part will be scholars who have written widely on national security issues — Richard J Aldrich, Professor of

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International Security at the University of Warwick, and Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones, Emeritus Professor of American History at the University of Edinburgh.

The world of Ian Fleming's celebrated fictional spy, James Bond will be probed by Dr Christopher Moran from the University of Warwick, who will separate fact from fiction in the Bond phenomenon.

Historian Dr Malcolm Craig will lift the curtain on an attempt to censor a BBC programme about Britain's intelligence agencies during the Margaret Thatcher administration of the early 1980s.

Historical espionage—including plots against Mary Queen of Scots and spy scandals in Edinburgh following the Napoleonic Wars—will be examined by academics in an event at the National Library of Scotland.

A mini-series of films exploring spies, voyeurs, and psychological and political 'paranoid states' will be screened at the Edinburgh Filmhouse, with introductions from University academics.

Another event will address the question of what is at stake in writing spy biographies. Two writers will be interviewed—spy novelist and biographer Jeremy Duns, author of *Dead Drop: The True Story of Oleg Penkovsky and the Cold War's Most Dangerous Operation* (2013), and historian, journalist and biographer Ben Macintyre, author of *Spy Among Friends: Kim Philby and the Great Betrayal* (2014).

Professor Penny Fielding, of the University of Edinburgh's School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures, said: "Spy Week is back for its third year to celebrate and explore the influence of spy literature. There is an enormous appetite for this genre. The world of espionage has not only provided authors with some fantastic plots but spy fiction also confronts some of the ethical, cultural and historical events which have shaped the modern world."

Edinburgh Spy Week is organised by the University of Edinburgh, the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh Filmhouse and Blackwell's Bookshop. Most events (aside from the films) are free but ticketed via Eventbrite.

Details of the events at: <http://www.spyweek.le.ed.ac.uk/>
Facebook—<https://www.facebook.com/edinburghspyweek> Twitter
<https://twitter.com/spyweek>

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