

**Press release**

1 March 2019

**Over £138,000 awarded to support Scotland’s arts links with Europe**

16 Scottish arts projects will benefit from new partnership funds

Scotland’s arts links with Europe are being boosted by over £138,000 of support from a partnership between British Council Scotland and Creative Scotland. Following an open call for proposals, which attracted 89 responses from individuals and organisations working across the Scottish arts sector, 16 projects have been selected to receive a share of the funding.

The successful bids represent several art forms, including dance, theatre, craft, music, visual arts and cross disciplinary practices, and a wide geographic spread, taking in Caithness, Dumfries & Galloway, Argyll, Aberdeenshire, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Each of the projects will involve at least one European partner in its delivery, ranging from Italy to Norway and Estonia to Greece, with a total of 15 countries involved overall.

Edinburgh Printmakers project ‘In From the Margins’ will bring together printmakers from Scotland, Greece, Ireland and other European nations to establish ‘Studios of Sanctuary’, offering residencies to refugee and asylum seeking artists, and artists whose lives have been shaped by migration. Shân Edwards, Chief Executive Officer of Edinburgh Printmakers, said, “We’re completely delighted that our project has been supported through this exciting new programme. With Edinburgh Printmakers about to open our new home in the former rubber factory in Fountainbridge, with world class facilities, it’s vital that we have the opportunity to share it with print makers across Europe and beyond, as well as the communities around us. Printmaking is one of the most accessible and democratic art forms and a great way to tell stories and share ideas with people from other cultures.”

Cove Park in Argyll will run a new series of parallel residencies for artists based in Scotland and European Union countries. Alexia Holt, the organisation’s Associate Director & Visual Arts Programme Producer said, “'We are delighted to be part this programme and look forward to welcoming artists from throughout Europe to Cove Park this year. Working with artists specialising in a wide range of art forms, Cove Park's European Residency Programme will be developed in partnership with organisations and companies in Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands and Sweden, amongst others. At a time of considerable political uncertainty, this programme expresses our commitment to ongoing dialogue and exchange with artists and partners based in EU countries.”

North Lands Creative in Caithness will develop a project to strengthen its connections with Abate Zanetti, a glassmaking centre of excellence in Italy. Karen Phillips, Director at North Lands Creative said, “We are delighted to be a recipient of this funding. Our Origin Project explores conversations on contemporary glass and aims to provide a myriad of opportunities for Scottish glass in Italy. The funding will allow us to continue to support our vision to help build a stronger European glass community and inspire audiences to engage with this artform. We look forward to growing our network in Murano with our partner Abate Zanetti, and are extremely grateful to the British Council and Creative Scotland for their support.”

The British Council Scotland and Creative Scotland partnership is a longstanding agreement between the organisations to develop international relationships in order to ensure Scotland’s creativity is recognised around the world.

Jackie Killeen, Director, British Council Scotland, said, “Supporting international connections across the arts is central to our work in Scotland, so we are very pleased to be working with our partners at Creative Scotland to enable these 16 projects between Scottish and European partners to take place. They demonstrate the strength and vitality of Scotland’s creative links with a wide range of European countries and I look forward to seeing how they develop in the future.”

Iain Munro, Acting CEO, Creative Scotland, commented: “We are pleased to partner with British Council Scotland on this important opportunity for the arts sector in Scotland to strengthen ties with European counterparts. Already a key market for artists, there continues to be interest in and demand for extending links and collaboration, especially in these challenging times for international working. We look forward to seeing how these projects develop, the connections that are made and welcoming artists from throughout Europe to Scotland.”

The value of each award is from £6,000 to £10,000. The full list of receiving individuals and organisations is: Cove Park, Deveron Projects, Edinburgh Printmakers, Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, Feral Arts, Highlight Arts, Luminate, Luke Pell, Northlands Creative, Paragon Music, Project Ability, Starcatchers, Street Level Photoworks, Rosana Cade and Ivor MacAskill, Take Me Somewhere Festival and Wide Events.

Ends.

Notes to editors

**Free to use images from Cove Park, Edinburgh Printmakers and North Lands Creative are available to download from the following Google Drive link:** [**https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Ig3AZosrdQB8mIGDIsCxD2Dd9DM3igs\_**](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Ig3AZosrdQB8mIGDIsCxD2Dd9DM3igs_)

The British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 65 million people directly and 731 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government. britishcouncil.org

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.  We enable 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. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com. Follow us @creativescots and www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland

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