

Roots to Shoots

Exhibitions Officer Elinor Gallant announces a new exhibition celebrating ten years of Dewar Arts Awards in the visual and applied arts.

The Dewar Arts Awards were set up in 2002 as a memorial to Scotland's first First Minister, Donald Dewar. They have a simple aim: to give exceptionally talented young people of meagre means some assistance in fulfilling their potential in any branch of the arts. In the last ten years over three hundred awards have been made to young film makers, visual artists, dancers, actors, photographers, textile designers, fashion designers, knitwear designers, contemporary jewellers, writers, musicians, composers and conductors.

Earlier this year one awardee, Luke Fowler, was nominated for the Turner Prize for his show *All Divided Selves*, shown at Inverleith House in the spring. And this winter RBGE helps to celebrate the achievements of more awardees in a show of 13 selected visual and applied artists whose talent has been nurtured by the award.

The exhibits have been drawn from a rich mix of work: jewellery, textile and fashion design, painting and sculpture. Also included are two films. One of these is by Katri Walker, whose work celebrates the fertile space between contemporary art,

portraiture and documentary film making. Katri says of her work, "The common thread throughout is always the desire to explore new modes of reflection in a world in which reality is never a static given, but a complex set of relations. Through video installation, I explore subjective realities as a means of understanding our contemporary global predicaments, creating intimate works that document the physical and emotional geographies of my subjects."

The other film piece is by knitwear designer Katherine Brown, whose film *Knit One, Kill One* is a humorous exploration of an inner torment and love-hate relationship with knitting. Further knitwear in bright, bold, nostalgic designs by Jennifer McHardy will also be on show, as will textile art by Malcolm Cruickshank.

Niall McDonald will be exhibiting part of an ongoing series of pieces that collage plaster-cast objects into hybrid relief sculptures. The original objects used in these subtle precious works are sourced from beaches, hillsides and city streets. "These pieces continue my ongoing interest in the process of casting and 'sampling' objects and surfaces from the work around me," says Niall.



Elaine Woo MacGregor's large paintings have been inspired by the Outer Hebrides, continuing her exploration of Scottish mythologies and heritage. Her dark canvases show primitive, dream-like landscapes that provoke emotive reaction and benefit from continued contemplation.

Also on show will be sculpture by Emma Pratt and Lee Borthwick, kinetic sculptures by Alana Florence, paintings by Caroline Walker, cartoons by Malcy Duff and jewellery by Jonathan Boyd, Andrew Lamb and Lynn MacLachlan. *Roots to Shoots* is a selling exhibition.

A series of events will run alongside the exhibition, including drop-in activities on the exhibition opening weekend and 'Meet the Artist' events in early 2013. See our website for further details.

Roots to Shoots, Thursday 13 December 2012 until Sunday 10 March 2013, John Hope Gateway. Admission is free.

Any young person under the age of 30 and living or working in Scotland can be nominated for the award, if their financial circumstances make it difficult to progress fully in their chosen field. To find out more visit www.dewarawards.org

Above: From the film *Knit One, Kill One* by writer and knitwear designer Katherine Brown and film-maker Andy Brown. **Left:** *Depths* by visual artist Elaine Woo MacGregor. **Background image:** *Die Ammonite* by visual artist Niall McDonald. Photo: © Kendall Koppe and the artist.

