

LOOK AGAIN

VISUAL ART & DESIGN FESTIVAL

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 27 February 2017

New funding ensures Aberdeen is in line for creativity boost.

Four creatives with a northeast connection have been awarded a cash sum today (Monday 27 February 2017) thanks to a new funding initiative launched by an Aberdeen visual art and design festival at the end of last year.

Organisers of the annual Look Again festival called for established and emerging artists and designers to apply for support from its first Seed Fund in December 2016. The four successful applicants - Craig Barrowman, Fiona McCubbin, Janet McEwan and Allan Watson - will use the funding to make some of their art and design ideas become a reality.

The artists – who have received a total £3,000 funding – each have an association with the north east of Scotland but some of them have moved away from the region. Their completed projects will form a key part of the 2017 Look Again festival.

Debuting in 2015, the Look Again festival is spearheaded by Robert Gordon University and Aberdeen based art agency – SMART. Celebrating the very best of visual art and design, it aims to challenge the way we see the Granite City and put the north-east of Scotland on the map as a centre of excellence for innovative and imaginative projects.

Sally Reaper, Look Again Visual Art & Design festival director, said: “The successful applicants specialize in very different disciplines within visual art and design so it’ll be fascinating to watch how their chosen projects take shape. We were very keen to encourage home grown talent back to the city and are delighted to see talented individuals, who were either born here or studied here, returning to showcase new work.

“Look Again not only strives to be a leading festival on the Scottish Art and Design scene but also wants to support established and new artists to produce new work so that many more great ideas can become visible.”

The Look Again Seed Fund - supported by Aberdeen City Council - was open to north east artists and designers at any stage of their creative careers. It is anticipated that the initiative will encourage more artwork to be produced and shared within the public realm - any publicly owned streets, pathways, parks and open spaces.

The Look Again festival has become a firm favourite on Aberdeen’s cultural calendar, attracting world-leading artists such as last year’s headline act Turner Prize winners, Assemble, as well as hundreds of artists from across Scotland and the rest of the UK. Taking place from Thursday April 27 to Monday 1 May, the lineup for next year’s event is still to be announced.

Ends

Media Contact:

For further information, or to arrange an interview with the festival organisers, please contact: Alison Ellis, Director of Korero: 07988050980 or alison@korero.co.uk Or Claire McCabe: 07789 902255 or claire@korero.co.uk

Notes to editors:

- **Look Again Visual Art & Design Festival** is spearheaded by a collaboration between the Robert Gordon University and local art agency SMART, the festival is now in its second year. It aims to establish Aberdeen as a centre of excellence for visual art and design while leaving a lasting legacy for the region. It encourages people to become tourists in their own city and have a fresh appreciation and understanding of their surroundings
- **SMART** is one of the north-east’s leading art agencies. They run art projects and support established and emerging artists/designers by providing platforms for them to exhibit and sell their work to the wider community of Aberdeen and beyond; this is achieved through gallery programmes and pop up events. Their services include art consultancy, curation, artist representation, exhibition & collection installation,

bespoke commissions, design, pop up events & exhibitions, specialist craft projects and exclusive artwork leasing. For more visit www.wearesmart.co.uk

- **Robert Gordon University (RGU)** provides industry led undergraduate and postgraduate courses leading to highly relevant awards and degrees. Situated on one of the most beautiful campuses in the UK, the university is investing £120m in a master plan development project aimed at providing all staff and students with state-of-the-art facilities. Teaching staff have an outstanding reputation for quality and academic research and our track record in graduate employment is the best in Scotland. The range of degree courses include online degrees as well as traditional taught courses in subjects as diverse as art and design, management and engineering.

