

LOOK AGAIN

VISUAL ART & DESIGN FESTIVAL

Press Release

Monday 27 February 2017

WHAT'S ON - Stellar Line Up Announced for 2017 Look Again Visual Art and Design Festival

Date: Thursday 27 April – Tuesday 2 May 2017

Location: various locations across Aberdeen and a full programme of events at Robert Gordon University's Garthdee campus

Event: Returning to the Granite City this April, *Look Again Visual Art & Design Festival* is a celebration of the very best contemporary visual art and design, showcasing both local and internationally acclaimed talent in Aberdeen.

Look Again aims to challenge the way we see Aberdeen, encouraging its audience to *'become a tourist in your own city'* in order to take time to look at the spaces and places around them through fresh eyes.

Aligning with the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, the 2017 programme will see artists and designers delve into the extensive collection of archives in the city, as inspiration for new public art works celebrating our rich cultural heritage.

Highlights of this year's Look Again include:

- **'Record Store' - AKA Obstacle Soup** - is a project curated by visual artists Janie Nicoll and Chirs Biddlecombe in collaboration with 36 artists from across Scotland. Part exhibition, part fantasy record shop, the project explores and celebrates the cross over between visual arts and music. Set to include new works by 12 invited artists from the north east, 'Record Store' will be shown at Seventeen - the creative hub and exhibition space in Belmont Street that was formerly the much loved One Up Records.

- Visual artists Jon Thomson and Alison Craighead, who are based in London and the Scottish Highlands – will present a new generative moving image work, inspired by Aberdeen Harbour, called **Control Room**, alongside two existing artworks, **Aberdeen Wall** and **Here**
- **The Listener** led by Scottish artist Jason Nelson includes a set of follies which tell the story of Aberdeen. The project is both an object to be viewed and a space to be used by people, from which to hear the histories and the urban myths that form the collective consciousness and identity of Aberdeen. Large trumpet-like shapes dominate the design of the sculpture.
- **Look Inside**, a design collective of Aberdeen based makers - Anne Marquiss, Gabi Reith, Mags Gray and Aubin Stewart - will showcase a new collaborative 'Aberdeen Collection' which explores and celebrates the architectural characteristics and history of Aberdeen. The collection offers a contemporary emblem, souvenir or keepsake that Aberdonians and visitors to the city will treasure in the future. Included in the collection will be jewellery, ceramics, illustration, apparel and more.
- Swedish-based designer Nick Ross will showcase new work inspired by Aberdeen's Seven Incorporated Trades. The project known as '**The Doric Boule**' connects ideas of local power and influence to a wider view of the world. A public meeting point will be created in the city's Marischal quad made not just from local stone but from varieties of granite from across the world.
- Ruby Pester and Nadia Rossi are set to launch Look Again @ Garthdee Campus this year with their project '**Inflato – Optical Image Intensifier**'.
- **Stephanie Smith and Eddie Stewart** will curate an exhibition that re-interprets the tradition of the nude in a potentially provocative installation on campus.

Ends

Media Contact:

For further information, or to arrange an interview with the festival organisers, please contact:
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Notes to editors:

Look Again Visual Art & Design Festival

Spearheaded by a collaboration between 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

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)

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.

