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## **SCOTLAND'S VENICE BIENNALE ARTISTS RETURN TO EXHIBIT AT THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART**

**SELECTIVE MEMORY: SCOTLAND & VENICE BIENNALE 2005**

**8 December 2005 – 5 March 2006**

**SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART, Belford Road, Edinburgh**

*Admission Free*

Supported by Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Foyle Foundation.

The artists who represented Scotland at this year's 51<sup>st</sup> Venice Biennale, Alex Pollard, Cathy Wilkes, and Joanne Tatham and Tom O'Sullivan will return to Scotland and stage an exhibition at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh from 7 December 2005 to 5 March 2006. Generous support from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The Foyle Foundation has allowed each artist to develop new commissions for this phase of the project.

In collaboration with the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, the exhibition will be curated by the same partnership, Jason E Bowman and Rachel Bradley, and will continue the theme of encouraging the public to explore the works of three practices dedicated to investigating the diverse roles of visual languages within contemporary art.

Scottish Arts Council Chairman Richard Holloway, speaking on behalf of the initiating and funding partnership of the Scottish Arts Council, National Galleries of Scotland and British Council, said: *'Scotland's presentation at the Venice Biennale demonstrated the vibrancy of Scottish contemporary art on the world stage. The homecoming of these artists' work creates an opportunity for the people of Scotland to see what we presented to the world audience together with additional, new work by the artists. I would encourage everyone to visit the exhibition.'*

All of the artists who presented work at the Venice Biennale this year – the world's most important showcase for contemporary art - are based in Glasgow and have worked and exhibited across Scotland and internationally.

Curators Jason E Bowman and Rachel Bradley commented:

*'We hope viewers will have an enriching experience in Edinburgh amidst the intricacy and challenge of this exhibition and take advantage of the inventive education programme that accompanies this phase.'*

In the exhibition at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, each artist will build upon the work he or she made for Venice and will re-visit recurrent motifs. Alex Pollard is creating a sculpture-based installation which continues his distortive and self-reflexive methods of producing works such as beasts, creatures and machine-like hands that enscript their own form of control. Cathy Wilkes is producing a new installation that sees her continue to develop the uniquely fragile and deeply considered works for which she is respected. Imbued with its' own sense of logic and beauty, this moving installation allows for reflection on both visual meaning and lived experience. Cathy will also be exhibiting a video installation which offers us access to a new perspective on her practice. Joanne Tatham and Tom O'Sullivan work collaboratively. In the last few years, they have begun to repeat and recycle certain motifs within their practice. This has now begun to resemble a vocabulary, or perhaps even more precisely, a grammar, with a system of rules and devices. It is through using this system that they are able to consider how contemporary art functions in the different contexts that it occupies. For the Edinburgh exhibition they will rework some of the motifs they used in Venice and represent them alongside existing works.

In Edinburgh, on Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout the duration of the exhibition, guides will be on hand to give introductory tours and answer visitors' questions. Each of the artists will talk about his or her work in a series of discussions and lectures. With the support of the Italian Cultural Institute, two special lectures will be given by Maria de Corral, co-curator of the 2005 Venice Biennale, and Enzo Di Martino author of *A History of the Venice Biennale 1895-2005*.

*Selective Memory* follows the highly acclaimed *Zenomap* exhibition in 2003, the first presentation of contemporary art from Scotland undertaken by the Scottish Arts Council and British Council, which featured work by Claire Barclay, Jim Lambie and Simon Starling (the latter two currently nominated for the prestigious Turner Prize). Artists based in Scotland have shown work at the Venice Biennale since 1897. The Scottish artist Mark Boyle represented Britain in 1978, and since then David Mach, Arthur Watson, Kate Whiteford, Douglas Gordon, Christine Borland and Roderick Buchanan, among others, have participated. This year was the first time that presentations from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland complemented the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

A complementary exhibition of work by Alex Pollard, Joanne Tatham and Tom O'Sullivan entitled *Echo Echo* will be on show at the Collective Gallery, Edinburgh from 8 December 2005 to 21 January 2006.

For further information, artists' details and high-resolution downloadable images, visit

[www.scotlandandvenicebiennale.com](http://www.scotlandandvenicebiennale.com)

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/Ends

#### **Notes to Editors**

1. Selective Memory was exhibited in a newly renovate 'scoletta' (small school) adjoining the magnificent Scuola Grande di San Rocco, in the San Polo district
2. For further information on the Venice Biennale, visit [www.labiennale.org](http://www.labiennale.org)
3. The Scottish Arts Council [www.scottisharts.org.uk](http://www.scottisharts.org.uk) champions the arts for Scotland, investing over £60 million from the Scottish Executive and National Lottery funding to support and develop artistic excellence and creativity throughout Scotland
4. The National Galleries of Scotland, [www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org) comprise the National Gallery of Scotland, the Royal Scottish Academy building, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and the Dean Gallery in Edinburgh
5. The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organization for education opportunities and cultural relations. In Scotland the British Council offers its partners a gateway to its global networks, and it provides its audiences worldwide with a window on Scotland through touring exhibitions and shows. For more information please visit [www.britishcouncil.org/scotland](http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland)