

press release



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Edinburgh Art Festival funds new work for 2005

Funds totalling **£15,000** have been awarded to six of Edinburgh's galleries to fund new work and assist with audience development and marketing. The funding from the Edinburgh Art Festival's New Projects fund made available through the Scottish Arts Council has been awarded to the **Collective Gallery**, the **Merz Gallery**, the **Fruitmarket**, the **Talbot Rice**, **Annuale**, and **Inverleith House** part of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

The Edinburgh Art Festival piloted for the first time last year, represents over thirty galleries and runs concurrently with Edinburgh's other major festivals in August. The New Projects fund has been created to support the work of existing galleries and artist-led organizations as well as to assist with the commission of new projects.

Amanda Catto, Head of Visual Arts at the Scottish Arts Council, said: 'The New Projects Fund will allow Edinburgh galleries to commission exciting new work for this year's Edinburgh Art Festival, helping to profile the work of Scottish and international artists to the thousands of visitors in Edinburgh during August. The new commissions will be showcased alongside other existing exhibitions by internationally renowned artists and works loaned from some of the world's most prestigious and important collections, making the Edinburgh Art Festival an integral part of the Edinburgh Festivals line-up.'

Both the Collective Gallery and the Merz Gallery will use the additional funding to create significant off-site installations. The Collective Gallery plans to work with emerging local artist **Kate Owens** whose work uses 'consumable' materials in a different context to give them new meanings. 'Gate of Ades' her off-site piece for this year's festival will be created from over 1000 bottles of fizzy pop positioned in a window to imitate traditional stained glass.

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The Merz Gallery has invited Tokyo based artist **Ken Kageyama** to produce a large off-site piece of work using over 100,000 waribashi (chopsticks). Ken is renowned for his large-scale work with chopsticks, forming them into triangular or pyramidal forms which are then thrown into a space. By virtue of their shape the forms bind together to build up into a structure the scale of which is determined by the space and the artist.

Calum Buchanan, the Director of Merz Gallery said: "The request by the Edinburgh Art Festival for an offsite project is a marvellous opportunity to bring to a wider audience the work of one of the major artists featured in "iimawashi", Merz Gallery's exhibition of Japanese contemporary art.

Funding has also been awarded to the **Fruitmarket Gallery** which has commissioned the main launch event for this year's Edinburgh Art Festival. Internationally renowned Chinese artist **Cai Guo-Qiang** will create a **Black Rainbow** over Edinburgh Castle using 2000 custom-made black firework shells. The Black Rainbow event will take place on **Friday 29 July at 7pm** and will be visible across the City lasting approximately one minute.

The Edinburgh Art Festival will help fund the Talbot Rice Gallery's education programme for fourth to sixth year students looking at artist **Paula Rego's** work in detail. The Talbot Rice already runs an award winning education programme and this extra funding will enable them to extend the range of participating schools and produce teachers packs for follow-up classroom activities. Paula Rego is an important contemporary artist whose work is inspired by literature. This is the first time that this exhibition of her work has been shown in Scotland.

Funding has also been given to the Edinburgh **Annuale**, which temporarily links Edinburgh's artist-run exhibitions and events during the festival month of August. The funding will enable the Annuale to produce a catalogue which will list all the grass-roots activities being undertaken by young and emerging artists in Edinburgh during the period. The Edinburgh Art Festival has also been able to assist **Inverleith House** with the running of a visitors' bus to Ian Hamilton Finlay's garden Little Sparta, to tie in with the exhibitions running at Inverleith House, The Ingleby Gallery and The Scottish Poetry library which celebrate the artist's 80th birthday.



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The Edinburgh Art Festival is supported by the Scottish Arts Council, The British Council and Edinburgh City Council.

The Press Launch for this year's Edinburgh Art Festival will be held in the morning on **Thursday 28th July** (more details to follow).

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