

scotland and venice 2009

KEY MESSAGES – SCOTLAND AND VENICE, DECEMBER 2009

- The exhibition will run from 12 December 2009 – 14 February 2010
- After concluding its run in Venice at the 53rd Biennale the Martin Boyce exhibition *No Reflections* will return to Scotland to be configured for an exhibition at DCA. No Reflections has been commissioned by Scotland+Venice, a partnership between the Scottish Arts Council, National Galleries of Scotland and British Council Scotland.
- Martin Boyce exhibition *No Reflections* is curated by Dundee Contemporary Arts for Scotland and Venice 2009.
- The project offers Scottish audiences the chance to view high quality, internationally renowned contemporary art direct from the world's main showcase event in Venice.
- Martin's original work was conceived for two venues. This brand new exhibition is the second phase of the project and has been reworked specifically for DCA.
- 2009 sees the 10th birthday of DCA. Since opening to the public on 19th March 1999 it has provided a platform for some of the most exciting contemporary art to be seen in the last decade. With many important international and Scottish artists showing for the first time in its impressive galleries - 18 artists exhibiting in DCA galleries or working with the DCA Print Studio have been subsequently nominated for the Turner Prize - the presentation of *No Reflections* will be a fitting end to a memorable year.
- The project is vitally important in promoting Scotland as a centre of excellence for the arts.
- Scotland and Venice is primarily about giving artist/s a recognised international platform for the development and subsequent reception of their work. It is a project that is artist centred and on this occasion very much artist led – Martin Boyce was involved from an early stage and had the opportunity to select the venue, which is very much in keeping with DCA's working ethos.
- This exhibition would not have taken place were it not for the Scotland and Venice partnership.
- Scotland and Venice is only possible because of the partnership that has been formed between Scottish Arts Council, National Galleries of Scotland and British Council (Scotland office and London office).
- Scotland and Venice offers opportunities for development in Scotland – for example, Scotland and Venice facilitated the 'New Seekers' programme as part of Newfoundland; a collaboration between Scottish Sculpture Workshop and Hospitalfield, Arbroath. The New Seekers became artists in residence in Venice which has allowed for international networks to be developed and be

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brought back to Scotland through both residency and exhibition opportunities.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

- Audience figures in Venice have been exceptional, with 19,500 visitors between 4 June – 4 November 09 and with the exhibition still to run until 22 November 09, we expect well over 20,000 international visitors to this exhibition.
- Martin Boyce work can also be seen at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art from 28 November 2009. This specially commissioned work is a recent acquisition to the collection and is being shown for the first time. Supported by Homecoming Scotland, and entitled Electric Trees and Telephone Booth Conversations, the installation makes full use of the height and dramatic scale of the largest room in the Gallery.

For the first time in twenty-five years the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art will be re-hung in its entirety to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding. Opening during the Homecoming Scotland Finale Celebrations, the display will reveal the richness and range of the collection.

- Scotland and Venice demonstrates in a tangible way the continued growth and achievements of Scotland's visual arts sector – by creating a strong impact in Venice we have attracted the attention of international colleagues and encouraged them to come to visit Scotland and to find out more about artists and arts organisations working here – an example of this is that we were promoting the Glasgow International (GI) and Edinburgh Art Festival (EAF) through this year's Scotland and Venice project
- Internationalism in the visual arts is very much about professional exchange and dialogue – Venice is the most important event for initiating new relationships and sparking off new projects/ ideas/ etc. It always leads to new opportunities for the artist/ s selected, their galleries and others. This year, with the University of Dundee/ Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, nine students were offered professional development opportunities, which included a mentoring programme through DCA's involvement, as part of their invigilation of the exhibition remit.
- The Scottish Arts Council serves the people of Scotland by fostering arts of excellence through investment, development, research and advocacy. Our corporate aims are: to support artists to fulfil their creative and business potential; to increase participation in the arts; and to place the arts, culture and creativity at the heart of learning. The organisation was established by Royal Charter in 1994 and is a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) investing over £61m each year, including £12.4 million of National Lottery funding. A new organisation, Creative Scotland, will be established in 2010, subject to the passage of legislation. Creative Scotland will grow out of the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen by working with those organisations' staff. www.scotisharts.org.uk

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- Martin's gallery representation includes:
Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York
Johnen Galerie, Berlin
Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zurich
The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd, Glasgow



Scottish **Arts** Council



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