



MEDIA RELEASE:

## **Craft Scotland showcases world class glass made in Scotland**

Three of Scotland's most exciting glass artists present their work as part of OPEN at Royal Scottish Academy

In the second of a planned series celebrating craft mediums Craft Scotland is delighted once again to be partnering with Visual Arts Scotland to celebrate contemporary glass through a presentation of multidisciplinary works from gifted Scottish makers. This year they have chosen to present the work of three artists working in contemporary glass in very different ways: Alan Horsely, Carrie Fertig and Jeff Zimmer.

Challenging the common perceptions of glass, the showcase highlights the diversity of glass techniques and styles in a dramatic presentation. Selected by the VAS committee and a representative of Craft Scotland, the three invited glass artists will form the starting point for a wider celebration of the diverse discipline of glass throughout the open exhibition.

Alan Horsey's sculptural works in part take the form of fragmented artefacts, while Jeff Zimmer's haunting pieces using photography and mirroring explore ambiguity, morality and mortality in contemporary society and politics. Carrie Fertig's interdisciplinary practice includes *The Great and The Good*, both object and film and her spinning mirrored lamb shows a distorted view of the observer and their environment.

Speaking ahead of the exhibition opening Craft Scotland Director Fiona Logue said: 'Our media-specific showcases were born out of Craft Scotland and Visual Arts Scotland's mutual ambition to exhibit high-quality craft alongside works of fine art in a venue fitting of its stature. I hope this celebration of contemporary glass, showing the myriad of ways glass can be used in a creative context, will captivate and grow appreciation of the beauty of the medium.'

### **Making Connections, Creating Opportunities**

Craft Scotland, 15 Coburg Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6ET

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This striking showcase forms part of the annual VAS exhibition. For 2018, VAS and the Scottish Society of Artists (SSA) present OPEN. Curated by both societies, VAS and the SSA will show the furthest extremes of contemporary art practice, from craft to digital and everything in between.

### **Listing Information**

Craft Scotland celebrates... glass

OPEN - SSA & VAS Together 2018

29 January - 8 March 2018

Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 12 noon - 5pm

**Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL**

[www.open2018.art](http://www.open2018.art)

For further information on Craft Scotland celebrates glass please contact Owen O'Leary on 07815 992658 or email [owen@ohreally.co.uk](mailto:owen@ohreally.co.uk)

View and download hi res images of the artworks here:

<https://app.box.com/s/w1kqirni19xqj59p8ju3hapbxu55owfd>

ENDS>

### **Notes to Editors:**

The artists being showcased by Craft Scotland are:

#### **Alan Horsely**

Drawing on a strong interest in glass chemistry and composition, Andrew uses the incredible flexibility of the material to breathe life into his sculptures. The works reflect the complex, sometimes confusing, interactions between the physical and mental elements of our lives. Inspired by the figurative and design traditions of the High Baroque, Andrew seeks to create bold, emotional sculpture which uses glass sensitively to afford a glimpse into the inner workings and mysteries of each piece. [alanhorsley.wordpress.com](http://alanhorsley.wordpress.com)

#### **Carrie Fertig**

Carrie uses flame-worked glass in an interdisciplinary practice incorporating sound, light, fire, electronics, dance, and film to address emotional, spiritual, and physical states and thresholds.

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Her preferred materials are invisible or transparent: sound and clear glass. Her work is made with fire: 'this elemental process speaks to my recurring subjects of human connection, self-knowledge, and flight and stasis. I build environments and situations to which people privately bring their deepest selves to visually public installations'. [www.carriefertig.com](http://www.carriefertig.com)

### **Jeff Zimmer**

Jeff Zimmer creates works with glass that explore ambiguity, morality and mortality in contemporary society and politics. His pieces are designed to engage with the sensual experiences of mystery and light. He subverts notions of light, investigating its capacity for evocation, mystery and ambiguity in place of its traditional associations with clarity, divinity, revelation and simplified notions of truth.

For this exhibition, Jeff will present works from three ongoing series: The Disconnect Between Action & Consequence, I'm Afraid of You, and Mobile Shrines. [www.jeffzimmer.com](http://www.jeffzimmer.com)

### **Craft Scotland**

Craft Scotland is the national development agency for craft. We put makers at the heart of all we do, championing diverse and high-quality contemporary craft. We help people learn about, appreciate and buy craft, promoting the contribution of craft to Scotland's cultural, economic and social well-being.

Through our exhibitions and events programmes, digital platforms and strategic partnerships, we provide leadership for the sector. We create opportunities for makers to develop their creative and business practice, and to exhibit and sell work in Scotland and beyond. We are a registered charity supported by Creative Scotland. [www.craftscotland.org](http://www.craftscotland.org)

### **Visual Arts Scotland**

Visual Arts Scotland is a leading platform for national and international contemporary fine and applied artists with a membership of over 400 practising artists. Originally an organisation for women artists, the society since the 1980s has championed craft makers, designers and applied arts practitioners. Works by notable artists have included historically Joan Eardley, Barbara Hepworth, Elizabeth Frink and Lucie Rie, and more recently they have been proud to exhibit some of Scotland's biggest rising stars including Rachel MacLean who represented Scotland in the 2017 Venice Biennale.

Their relationship with contemporary fine art practice is at the heart of Visual Arts Scotland's mission today. Their annual exhibition offers the opportunity for emerging and established practitioners to showcase new and unseen work. For more information visit [www.visualartsscotland.org](http://www.visualartsscotland.org)

### **The Society of Scottish Artists**

The Society of Scottish Artists is an artist-led membership organisation founded in 1851. It is a

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vibrant network of 800 artist members and is governed by an elected president and council. The SSA today continues in the spirit of its founders, to show the controversial and the unexpected and to promote new artists of promise through its Annual Exhibition in Edinburgh and satellite exhibitions, events and artists residencies across the world.

The Society of Scottish Artists has long aimed to represent adventurous work from Scotland and further afield with exhibitions including the work of the Post Impressionists, Gauguin, Cezanne, Matisse and Van Gogh in 1913. In 1922 the Society presented work by Picasso, Daumier, Degas and Forain. In 1931, the Society showed, for the first time in the UK, twelve canvases by the then highly controversial Edvard Munch who went on to become a member of the Society.

Central to the 2015 Annual Exhibition was the work of SSA member Graham Fagen, in concurrence with his Scotland + Venice Biennale show and in 2016, Bettina Hutschenk, who represented Malta at the Venice Biennale 2017.

The SSA has an ongoing desire to reach out to new audiences by giving prominence to digital culture and new technology. An ongoing partnership with New Media Scotland supports the creation and development of new artwork, exploring interactive practice and challenging the idea of what new media creativity can be. [www.s-s-a.org](http://www.s-s-a.org)

### **Creative Scotland**

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit [www.creativescotland.com](http://www.creativescotland.com). Follow us @creativescots and [www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland)

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