

# Scotland + Venice

**PRESS RELEASE  
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## **Scotland + Venice partnership launches largest ever Learning Programme**

**New website launched: [www.scotlandandvenice.com](http://www.scotlandandvenice.com)**



Members of the Scotland + Venice team with Graham Fagen. Photo by Alan Dimmick.  
L-R: Jo McInnes (CGC); Polly Johnston (GSA); Stefano Pia (GSA); Graham Fagen; Robert Mills (GSA); Kieran Milne (DJCAD).

28 students and recent graduates from seven art and design schools across Scotland have been selected by Hospitalfield in Arbroath to become members of the largest Scotland + Venice Learning Programme to date. The scheme gives young art school students and graduates the opportunity to learn and develop new skills within the context of the 56<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia (9 May – 22 November 2015), the largest and most prestigious visual arts exhibition in the world.

This is the first time the programme, which has been a feature of the Scotland + Venice partnership since 2003, will host students from Dundee and Angus College (both Arbroath Campus and Gardyne Campus, Dundee) and Moray School of Art, University of the Highlands and Islands in Elgin, alongside students from City of Glasgow College, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design in Dundee, Edinburgh College of Art, The Glasgow School of Art and Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen.

The Scotland + Venice Learning Programme offers participants training, mentoring, support and work experience, as well as a chance for the team to immerse themselves within the context of the Venice Biennale. Each of the students will spend up to four weeks in Venice, greeting visitors to Fagen's exhibition. A key aspect of the Scotland + Venice team's role will also be to communicate the impact

of the programme through a new initiative called 'The Loop' which provides an opportunity for the students to produce a collaborative project and share their experience in Venice with other art and design students across Scotland.

Beginning with an intense Residential Learning Weekend in March 2015 at Hospitalfield, the Learning Programme will take place alongside the Scotland + Venice 2015 solo presentation of new work by Graham Fagen, one of the most compelling artists working in Scotland today. Through his teaching at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Graham has had his own influence on generations of young artists. His commission for the Venice Biennale, which is curated by Hospitalfield, will be presented at the Palazzo Fontana – a new location for the Scotland + Venice presentation – located off the Grand Canal in the Cannaregio district of Venice.

Participating students include Jo McInnes, Sarah Scanlan and Holly Smith (City of Glasgow College); Kieran Milne, Lisa Olsen and Tama Richardson (Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design); Kinga Elliot, Arran Storey and Alice Taylor (Dundee and Angus College); Anna Danielewicz, Troy Holmes and Hannah Ustun (Edinburgh College of Art); Polly Johnston, Robert Mills and Stefano Pia (The Glasgow School of Art); Skaiste Klaniute, Craig Lee and Jenni Murison (Gray's School of Art); and Julija Astasonoka, Hester Grant and Amanda Lightbody (Moray College, University of Highlands and Islands). Recent graduates who participated in Hospitalfield's Graduate Residency Programme in 2013 and 2014 will also join the Scotland + Venice team. Graduates include Lydia Brownlee, Emma Ewan, Jamie Kane, Ewan Murray, Jess Ramm, Alison Scott and Nick Thomas.

Details of the Scotland + Venice Learning Programme are announced alongside the launch of the partnership's new website: [www.scotlandandvenice.com](http://www.scotlandandvenice.com). Designed by Glasgow-based web developer Maeve Redmond, the website features comprehensive information on the 2015 presentation; background information on the artist and organisers; details of Palazzo Fontana; an archive of previous presentations; a dedicated media section featuring the latest news; and links to Scotland + Venice social media channels, including a new Instagram page which also launched this week. Students in the Learning Programme will work closely with the Scotland + Venice partnership to create content for these channels.

**Lucy Byatt, Director of Hospitalfield, said:**

"We have inherited this wonderful Learning Programme that has been developed in each edition of Scotland + Venice since 2003. The opportunity to shoulder considerable responsibility as the public face of Scotland + Venice and to spend a month living and working in Venice is an experience that I am sure we all wish we had when we were at college. I very much look forward to working with the students that we have selected from each college and thank all the staff who have worked with and guided us. It has been a hugely rewarding experience to meet so many astonishing young people with so much potential".

**Amanda Catto, Portfolio Manager for Visual Arts, Creative Scotland, said:**

"The professional experience provided by the Scotland + Venice Learning Programme will be invaluable to the students involved. Established in partnership with the leading art and design schools in Scotland, the programme provides students with a unique opportunity to develop their networks and to gain first-hand experience of the international context in which they are making their work".

**Stefano Pia (b. 1986, Glasgow; lives in Glasgow), studies on the Sculpture and Environmental Art course at The Glasgow School of Art, said:**

"To be working at the Biennale is an incredible opportunity to meet and work with my peers from other Scottish art schools and to better understand the intricacies and mechanics of helping our Scotland representative at the Biennale, Graham Fagen, to fully realise his work".

**Kitty Anderson, Curator at The Common Guild, and part of the Scotland + Venice team in 2003, said:**

"The six weeks I spent living and working in Venice provided a wonderful introduction to what's involved in presenting an exhibition on an international platform. The people, places and ideas I came into contact with at that time have been hugely influential throughout my career, not least 10 years later when I was part of the curatorial team for Scotland + Venice 2013".

**Gina Wall, Curriculum Leader, Moray School of Art, University of the Highlands and Islands, said:**

"Moray School of Art is delighted to be participating in the Scotland + Venice Professional Development Programme which offers a unique opportunity for our students to acquire and share key professional skills gained at the Venice Biennale, one of the most prestigious international art shows in the world."

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**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

- **Scotland + Venice** is a partnership between Creative Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland and the British Council. Representatives of these organisations sit on a Steering Group that oversees the successful delivery of the project. La Biennale di Venezia is an important project that helps build Scotland's profile and reputation as an international centre for visual arts and offers a significant opportunity for the development and presentation of new work by leading contemporary artist(s).

Since its inception in 2003, the Scotland + Venice partnership has supported the development of students and emerging artists. Formerly referred to as the 'Professional Development Programme', the Learning Programme was formally initiated in 2009 when Dundee Contemporary Arts curated the Martin Boyce exhibition and enabled a very successful partnership with Duncan of Jordanstone in Dundee. Over successive years, the initiative has grown to include seven art and design colleges across Scotland and offers 28 students and early career artists the opportunity to learn and develop new skills.

Opening at Architecture and Design Scotland at The Lighthouse, Glasgow on 6 February is *Scotland + Venice*: an exhibition looking back at Scottish projects shown in Venice during its prestigious International Architecture Biennale. The exhibition presents five varied projects from 2004-2014 and will be open daily until 18 March 2015 giving the public an opportunity to see how Scotland's

architecture has been presented internationally. More information is available here: [www.ads.org.uk](http://www.ads.org.uk). For the latest news on the broader Scotland + Venice partnership, please visit: [Scotland + Venice Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

- **Graham Fagen** is one of the most compelling artists working in Scotland today. His work mixes media and crosses continents; combining video, performance, photography, and sculpture with text, live music and plants. Recurring social and political themes use flowers, journeys and popular song as metaphors to unravel and decipher the powerful forces that shape our lives. Fagen studied at The Glasgow School of Art (1984-1988, BA) and the Kent Institute of Art and Design (1989-1990, MA). Fagen lives and works in Glasgow and teaches at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee.

Recent exhibitions include *In Camera*, with Graham Eatough at the Panorama, Le Friche, Marseille, France and *Cabbages in an Orchard* at The Glasgow School of Art, as well as participation in *GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art from Scotland* at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh. Fagen is represented by Matt's Gallery, London and Galerie Micky Schubert, Berlin. For further information, please visit [www.grahamfagen.com](http://www.grahamfagen.com) or follow him on Twitter [@grahamfagen](#)

- **Palazzo Fontana** is located at Cannaregio 3829, Venezia (access for the public via Strada Nuova, Calle Fontana), near Vaporetto stop Ca' D'Oro: <https://goo.gl/maps/msA2e>

The exhibition will be open 10am – 6pm every Tuesday – Sunday from 9 May – 22 November 2015, with press and preview dates on 5 - 7 May 2015. Admission is free.

- **Hospitalfield** is the 19<sup>th</sup> century home of artist Patrick Allan-Fraser in the beautiful rural region of Angus on the east coast of Scotland. Left in Trust in 1890 as one of Scotland's first art schools, today's programme balances access to outstanding 19<sup>th</sup> century interiors and collections whilst generating a valued, sustained and distinct contemporary art programme that plays a significant part within the current dynamic arts ecology of Scotland. The emphasis on the provision of residencies for artists and others working in relation to the visual arts is linked to the programme of new commissions. The organisation is also currently undertaking a major capital development led by architects Caruso St John.

Over the last two years, Hospitalfield's Graduate Residency Programme has offered 12 graduates from Scottish art and design courses the time to work at Hospitalfield on a specific project within a collegiate setting. Individual artists and designers are selected from an open call to students who have completed an art and design undergraduate and postgraduate course of the past two preceding years. Hospitalfield works with influential selectors from the cultural sector to choose the final groups of 12 each year. The intention of the residency is to allow time to focus on the development of new work and to build a useful network for the residents. For further information on Hospitalfield, please visit: [Hospitalfield.org](http://Hospitalfield.org) | [Facebook](#) | [@Hospitalfield](#)

- **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: [Creativescotland.com](https://creativescotland.com) | [Facebook](#) | [@creativescots](#)
- **National Galleries of Scotland** (NGS) looks after one of the world's finest collections of Western art ranging from the Middle Ages to the present day. These holdings include the national collection of Scottish art which is displayed in an international context. Every year the NGS welcome over 1.5 million visitors from Scotland and the rest of the world to our three Galleries sited in Edinburgh. These include the Scottish National Gallery, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. For further information please visit: [Nationalgalleries.org](https://nationalgalleries.org) | [Facebook](#) | [@NatGalleriesSco](#)
- **British Council's** mission is to build long-term international relationships and trust between the people of Scotland and other countries through the exchange of ideas, knowledge and information in the arts and education. Our involvement in the arts arena stretches back to 1947 when we helped to found the Edinburgh International Festival and every year we continue to work on new and exciting cultural projects connecting Scotland and the world. For further information please visit: [British Council](#) | [@BCScotland](#)