

Scotland + Venice 2015

PRESS RELEASE

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New venue announced for Scotland + Venice 2015 Solo presentation by Graham Fagen



Palazzo Fontana. Courtesy of Hospitalfield Arts.

The Scotland + Venice partnership is delighted to announce a new venue for its 2015 presentation. Palazzo Fontana, located on the Grand Canal in the Cannaregio district in Venice, will house a solo presentation by leading Scottish artist Graham Fagen commissioned and curated by Hospitalfield Arts to coincide with the 56th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, from 9 May to 22 November 2015. This will be the first time the Palazzo has been used for an exhibition.

Palazzo Fontana was built at the end of the 16th century by pupils of leading Renaissance architect Jacopo Sansovino and was the birth place of Pope Clemens XIII in the late 17th century. This historic and atmospheric palazzo retains many of its original features and is extremely well located, just off Strada Nuova, seconds

from the Ca d'Oro vaporetto stop. Directly facing the Grand Canal, the venue occupies over 4,000 square feet and offers an ambitious setting to showcase Scottish contemporary art during the largest and most prestigious visual arts exhibition in the world.

The new venue will also accommodate 21 students selected from 7 art and design colleges from across Scotland as part of Scotland + Venice's Professional Development Programme. Joined by 7 graduates selected from the Hospitalfield Graduate Residency Programme from 2013 and 2014, students will act as Information Assistants to greet visitors and provide information during the exhibition. Participating colleges include City of Glasgow College, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee and Angus College, Edinburgh College of Art, Glasgow School of Art, Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen and Moray School of Art, University of the Highlands and Islands.

Graham Fagen is one of the UK's foremost contemporary artists. His work mixes media and crosses continents; combining video, performance, photography, and sculpture with text, live music and plants. His recurring artistic themes, which include flowers, journeys and popular song, are used as attempts to understand the powerful forces that shape our lives.

La Biennale di Venezia is the largest and most prestigious visual arts exhibition in the world. This will be the seventh presentation from Scotland + Venice, a partnership between Creative Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland and British Council Scotland. For the partners, Venice is an important project that helps to build Scotland's profile and reputation as an international centre for the visual arts.

Amanda Catto, Chair of the Scotland + Venice Partnership and Portfolio Manager for Visual Arts at Creative Scotland, said:

"The Palazzo Fontana offers an exceptional setting for our presentation of new work by Graham Fagen. We are delighted to have discovered a unique venue that offers such exciting potential to the project. We look forward to welcoming visitors from near and far to the exhibition when it opens in May next year".

Simon Dessain, Chair of the Governors of the Hospitalfield Trust, said:

"When Elizabeth and Patrick Allan Fraser established themselves at Hospitalfield in Angus in the 1840s, they focused on commissioning and collecting the art of their contemporaries. The opportunity to curate the Scottish presentation at the Venice Biennale in 2015 with new work by Graham Fagen is absolutely in tune with this history and our 21st century ambitions. We are most delighted to be working with the Scotland + Venice partnership and in doing so, signalling a fantastic new energy and ambition in Hospitalfield's current and future plans".

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- **Palazzo Fontana** is located at Cannaregio 3829-3830, Venezia (access for the public via Strada Nuova, Calle Fontana). The nearest Vaporetto stop is Ca'Doro. Find the venue on Google Maps here: <https://goo.gl/maps/msA2e>

The exhibition will be open 10am – 6pm every Tuesday – Sunday from 9 May – 22 November 2015, with preview and press dates on 6 - 8 May 2015. Admission is free.

- **Scotland + Venice** is a partnership between Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland and representatives of these organisations sit on the 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 a leading contemporary artists.

Previous Scotland + Venice presentations have included Duncan Campbell, Hayley Tompkins and Corin Sworn (curated by The Common Guild in 2013) at Palazzo Pisani; Karla Black (curated by the Fruitmarket Gallery in 2011) at Palazzo Pisani; Martin Boyce (curated by Dundee Contemporary Arts in 2009) at Palazzo Pisani; Charles Avery, Henry Coombes, Louise Hopkins, Rosalind Nashashibi, Lucy Skaer and Tony Swain (curated by Philip Long, former Senior Curator at the National Galleries of Scotland in 2007) at Palazzo Zenobio; Alex Pollard, Joanne Tatham, Tam O'Sullivan and Cathy Wilkes (curated by Jason Bowman and Rachel Bradley in 2005) at The Scoletta, Campo San Rocco, San Polo, and Sant'Elena; and Claire Barclay, Jim Lambie and Simon Starling (curated by Francis McKee and Kay Pallister in 2003) at Palazzo Giustinian-Lolin.

The selection Panel for the 2015 presentation included: Amanda Catto, Portfolio Manager for Visual Arts at Creative Scotland and Chair of the Scotland + Venice partnership; Francis McKee, Director of the CCA and co-curator of Zenomap for Scotland + Venice in 2003; Richard Riley, Head of Exhibitions, Visual Arts Department, British Council; Dana MacLeod, Head of Arts, British Council

Scotland; David Watt, Director of Arts and Business Scotland and Board member of SCAN – the Scottish Contemporary Art Network.

For more information on the 2015 presentation or past projects, please visit: [Scotland + Venice](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

- **Graham Fagen** is one of the UK's foremost contemporary artists. In video, performance, photography, sculpture or text, he creates works, which explore how identity is both created by, and a response to, its cultural context. Fagen studied at the Glasgow School of Art (1984-1988, BA) and the Kent Institute of Art and Design (1989-1990, MA).

In 1999 Fagen was invited by the Imperial War Museum, London to work as the Official War Artist for Kosovo, and since then has exhibited widely both in the UK and abroad, and exhibitions include *Golden Age*, Institute of Contemporary Art, London (1999), *The British Art Show* (2000), part of *Zenomap*, Scotland and Venice at the 50th Venice Biennale (2003), *Bloodshed* at the Victoria & Albert Museum and *Art of the Garden*, Tate Britain (2004), Busan Biennale, South Korea, Still Life, Art and Industry Biennial, New Zealand (2004). In 2011 Fagen was the International Artist in Residence at Artpace, San Antonio, concluding with a solo exhibition, *Under Heavy Manners*, and with theatre director Graham Eatough, he created *The Making of Us*, a performance, installation and film for Glasgow International 2012.

Previous solo exhibitions have included *Cabbages in an Orchard* at the Glasgow School of Art and *Peek-A-Jobby* at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art as part of *GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art from Scotland*, and *In Camera*, with Graham Eatough at the Panorama, Le Friche, Marseille from September 2014. He is represented by Matt's Gallery, London and Galerie Micky Schubert, Berlin. For further information, please visit www.grahamfagen.com or follow him on Twitter [@grahamfagen](#)

- **Hospitalfield House** first opened to the public in 1892; 2000 visitors came over a single weekend, they came to see the art and the design vision of Elizabeth & Patrick Allan Fraser who were collectors of the art and design of their day. The couple left their house in Trust to become one of Scotland's first art colleges. Today Hospitalfield Arts continues with a renewed vision, yet with the same core values; to support education in the arts and artists. The programme of residencies brings artists from around the world to work and live at Hospitalfield House. The growing programme of commissions and events draws audiences from across Scotland providing, at the same time, an opportunity to experience the gardens and wonderful historic interiors and collections held with the house.

Hospitalfield is currently working on a capital development plan. Architects, Caruso St John are leading the design team and the director and Board of Governors are focussed on a major fundraising campaign with the aim of restoring the house and rejuvenating the facilities for audiences and for our arts programme. For further information, please visit: Hospitalfield.org | [Facebook](#) | [@Hospitalfield](#)

- **British Council Scotland'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 Scotland](#) | [@BCScotland](#)
- **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 | [Facebook](#) | [@creativescots](#)
- **The 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 | [Facebook](#) | [@NatGalleriesSco](#)