



© Victor Nobis, 'Northern Lighthouse Board' (2019)

Art in Granton

Opening Friday 25 Oct 2019, 5pm
until Sunday 27 Oct

30+ artists and 60+ artworks, all for sale

granton:hub @ Madelvic House
Granton Park Avenue, Edinburgh EH5 1HS



www.grantonhub.org

A heritage walking tour hosted by the University of Edinburgh's Curious Edinburgh digital app is the inspiration for the exhibition 'Art in Granton'. More than 60 contributions by 30+ artists and makers celebrated the rich industrial history, the urban vistas, the landscapes, the shoreline and the people living and working in Granton. The variety of artworks on show included figurative and abstract work, photography, ceramics and an audiovisual installation. Viewers were invited to experience the walking tour through these artworks and enjoy and learn about Granton's heritage. All artworks were for sale. Contributions from the local community and a digital print of a drawing of the demolished 'Granton Castle', donated by the National Galleries of Scotland, completed the show.

The exhibition was held in Madelvic House, the base of granton:hub. This Victorian building was the original office block of the Madelvic Works Car factory, which later became the offices for United Wire



The exhibition was formally opened by Deidre Brock (MP, SNP) (left in photo) on Friday 25 October at 6:15pm and the show continued on Saturday (10-6pm) and Sunday (11-5pm).

Speeches were also given by Louise Knight (Trustee, granton:hub – in the middle on the photo) and Gina Fierlafijn Reddie (main organiser, right in the photo). During the weekend the new granton:hub cafe was open for morning coffee and lunch. This opening was on a trial basis and nicely coincided with the exhibition offering an extra experience to artists and visitors.

Review

In the exhibition brochure, Gina Fierlafijn Reddie, the main organiser, explained: the idea behind this art exhibition is two-fold: to give extra publicity for visitors and locals to download the heritage walking tour on the University of Edinburgh's Curious Edinburgh app and as a result find out more about Granton's history; and to give artists and makers an opportunity to showcase and sell their work.

The event was a great success with an estimated 170-180 visitors (around 70 on the opening night, and a further 60 on Saturday and 50 on Sunday) and sales worth totalling £1,635 in total, representing 15 artworks, in addition to a selection of photographs. There were a further two art commissions which will offer artists and granton:hub an additional income in the future.

A total of 72 entries by 30 artists had been submitted and almost all were exhibited. Granton:hub had not charged a submission fee in order to encourage as many artists, makers and local residents to take part. However, on each sale, granton:hub did charge 20% commission whereby the funds raised would allow the planning of future activities. Submissions were by professional and amateur artists and makers, and for some this was the first time they had an opportunity to exhibit in public.

Exhibitors included: Maia Aitken, Anna Baran, **Chris Belous**, Amber Brown, **Sandra Brown**, Megan Chapman, **Erin Colquhoun**, **John Dickson**, Gina Fierlafijn Reddie, **Cecile Grey**, Jenny Haslam, Gareth Hutchison, **Colin Lindsay**, Harry Mafuji, **Inga Mantle**, Louise Montgomery, **Nick Murray**, **Victor Nobis**, Stuart W Ogilvie, **Stephen Paterson**, Catriona Patience, **Anna V Phillips**, **Sheena Phillips**, Damien Rose, Alexandrina Scarbrough, Paulo Seara, **Lesley Skeates**, **Henri Van der Elst**, Paco Vazquez and Rosemary Walker (artists in bold were successful in selling at least one artwork).

In addition, there were contributions from the National Galleries of Scotland, Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden and Edinburgh Sketcher.


The show took place in three separate rooms: the downstairs main room (the Sphynx room), the upstairs venue (the Rehearsal room) and the new Café. The corridors allowed for display boards installed by the history hub, giving additional information on the Madelvic Car Factory and The Gasworks. An audio-visual installation entitled 'Down to the Wire' focussing on the threat of the two listed buildings becoming derelict was located in the original staircase of Madelvic House (where Directors, in the past, would have walked up and down to the various offices and boardroom located upstairs). The glass entry at the far end of the building also displayed the maquette of one of the statues featured in one of the paintings, which is also one of the walking tour stops. The striking statue itself, 'Going to the beach', by Vincent Butler is located just a few minutes' walk from Madelvic House.



Curious Edinburgh

The exhibition itself was curated with the idea of the Curious Edinburgh tour stops in mind, re-enacting the walk, in as much as the visual and aesthetic presence of the individual artworks ensured the optimum art experience.

(From the app's description:) The tour offers a varied digest of what happened in the Granton area since medieval times with a focus on the industrial heritage throughout the 18th, 19th and 20th century. From quarrying to castles, in addition to manufacturing electric cars, printing oils, and early steel, Granton has been at the forefront of bringing innovation and wealth to Edinburgh. While most of its industries have now vanished, the tour keeps Granton's heritage alive by describing what was once a hive of activity. The scenic walk along the Forth foreshore will bring pleasure, while the stories, including one involving Darwin, will keep a captive audience.

 Matching artworks with the tour stops was made easy with the use of this logo next to each artwork. The exhibition programme included the logo and detailed information on each of the artists and what had inspired them about Granton and its surroundings. Visitors were encouraged to check the website or app for further details on all the stops, and to download the app free of charge. Indeed some of the artists reported back explaining they too had downloaded the tour first and then produced some of their work.

One visitor's feedback included:

"I really wanted to say 'congratulations' - a very impressive exhibition and a lovely venue. I had a stroll round some of the industrial wasteland afterwards- really interesting, and you have inspired me to go back there with my camera!" (Jean G)

The organiser was delighted to be able to include in the show 'The Old Castle near Caroline Park, dated July 1850'. This digital print of the original artwork has been kindly donated by National Galleries of Scotland | Learning and Engagement Department. The Castle itself had been demolished in the 1920s and two of the tour stops give additional information on the Castle and its Walled Garden. The reproduction of the drawing will be on permanent display at granton:hub.

Grandfather Jimmy



There was one moment that was particularly moving and worth including in this report. It involves the painting 'Grandfather' by Erin Colquhoun. The artist explained:

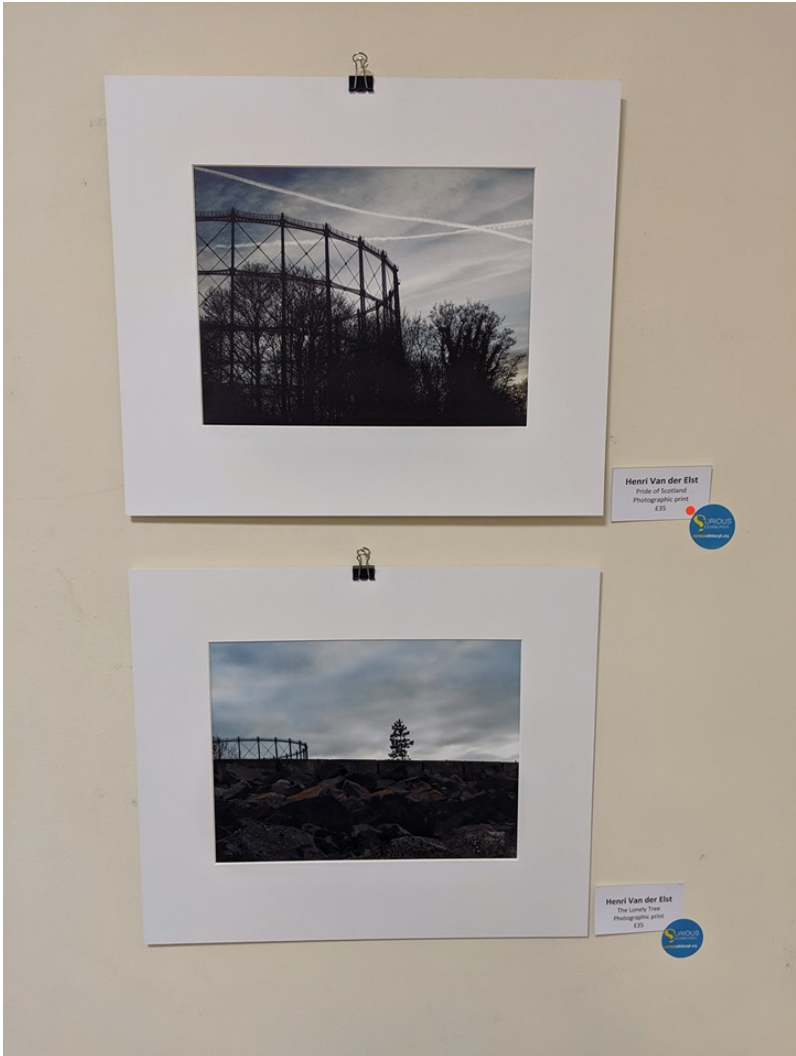
"This painting relates to the Granton area as I have created a portrait of my Grandfather who once worked many jobs in this area. He worked for many years in the factories there. I have taken inspiration from him as he has always worked hard but remained calm and collected. He has also inspired me to always explore here on weekends as I am always reminded of him when looking at the factories, houses and harbour nearby. I spent many weekends walking there and exploring the Granton Edinburgh heritage."

The artist further explained in another e-mail that Jimmy had worked in the Wire Factory. Gina Fierlafijn Reddie invited Jimmy, who is 93, to the opening and fortunately the whole family turned out and Mr. Colquhoun was sitting down, listening to the speeches and thoroughly enjoying the attention. Afterwards he chatted about the factory and some of his memories working the machines. The family decided to purchase the work (£200) and after

the show donated it to granton:hub. They felt that Jimmy had had such an amazing time, he seemed to have been reinvigorated by the experience and the recalling of his times, as well as the fact he felt honoured and it felt right for the painting to remain in the building. This strongly underlined the main message that Gina Fierlafijn Reddie expressed in her speech that 'art is about people and sharing the memories'.

It was decided that the painting should hang in the new lobby once the downstairs has been redecorated, where it will join the digital print the of 'Granton Castle' drawing, donated by the NGS. To have Jimmy's portrait in the building would be particularly poignant since in his days the office building was not accessible to any of the workers, just the bosses and the Directors...





Henri Van der Elst
Pride of Scotland
Photographic print
£35



Henri Van der Elst
The Lonely Tree
Photographic print
£35



artworks with
● refer to
walking tour

Another review can be found here

https://spark.adobe.com/page/dchNN79YmDbCH/?fbclid=IwAR0VJSueyxAoNGwAks_Pe5k72jXSCz3rWKZhTIRWUkDUUhN9WnCpii_T3Qo

And the video of the art installation (photo below) is now available from YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYr9eUtrW0s&feature=youtu.be>



For full details check the website: <https://grantonhub.org/art-in-granton-2019/>
Address: granton:hub, Madelvic House, Granton Park Avenue, Edinburgh EH5 1HS

