



STIRLING UNIVERSITY

INNOVATION PARK

Wednesday 14 June 2006

Art on the Park

The art of innovation is being exhibited on a new level at the park thanks to a partnership framed between the University of Stirling Art Collection and SUIP.

In an innovative Art on the Park collaboration the business park has been given access to some of the University's significant art collection for hanging in its recently upgraded reception area.

Under the arrangement, the Innovation Park will join forces with the University's Art Curator Jane Cameron to exhibit the work of local artists to students, staff and employees of tenant companies.

The Art on the Park initiative will also be developed to forge closer links with the local community, by hosting exhibitions for emerging artists in the surrounding communities.

Lynn Blaikie, the Innovation Park's marketing manager, who was instrumental in setting up the project said: "Our primary role is to provide and promote the opportunities that exist on the park for dynamic and energetic companies to grow and achieve their potential. 'Art on the Park' is an extension of that role."

"We don't see ourselves confined by the boundaries of the campus we occupy, beautiful although it is. We want to develop stronger links with the staff and students of the University and be seen as part of the fabric of University and community life. We want to be more closely integrated."

Lynn explained: "Art on the Park is one of those really simple ideas that have taken off. Part of the upgrading of the reception and conference facilities was a redecoration scheme. I thought we could do with some new art for the walls and with the help of Jane Cameron the University's Art Curator 'Art on the Park' was born. "

Every month new pieces of art will adorn the walls of the Scion House reception area conference rooms and the newly developed Café Bar.

The displays will rotate between those of local artists, whose work will be for sale, and work from the University's collection.

The Art Collection at the University is a varied one comprising of over 300 works. The major works by artists such as J.D. Fergusson, John Bellany, Elizabeth Blackadder, Joan Eardley, William MacTaggart, James Morrison, Alberto Morrocco and Anne Redpath are exhibited in the Concourse Gallery in the Pathfoot Building which is open to the public every day of the week.

The tradition of collecting art goes back to the founding of the University in 1967 when Professor Tom Cottrell was the first Principal. A scientist by training, he came from an artistic background and had very clear ideas about art and its place in society.

"Universities exist to provide specific instruction in certain spheres. They also exist to give focus to the culture that supports them... including the insights of specially gifted individuals. Some of these are uniquely expressible in terms of the visual arts."

Jane Cameron, the University Art Curator said, "We are continuing to collect paintings by donation or purchase, when we can, in line with the early traditions set by Tom Cottrell. Our exhibition space, On The Library Wall, hosts exhibitions supporting new artists, schools and community groups and we are delighted, thanks to our volunteers, to be able to extend these exhibitions to Scion House.

We look forward to the collaboration with Scion House and to fulfilling our mutual aims of art becoming part of the everyday experience of work and study."

Sheilah Kennedy, from Bucklyvie, is the first local artist to benefit from the Art on the Park initiative. She has 14 of her colourful abstract paintings on view until 22 June 2006. Sheilah comes from a horticultural and design background. Shape, texture and colour have always fascinated her. Plants and landscapes that are untouched by habitation and industry have a natural balanced appearance and this harmony is what she works towards in her paintings. The inspiration comes from stored memories of our Scottish cities, landscapes, seascapes and plantings.

From 23 June 2006 - 17 July 2006 photography by Iain Mitchell will be displayed in Scion House and the Café Bar. Iain specialises in highest quality, photographic art prints capturing the beauty and diversity of our native Scotland.

Keep up-to-date with the calendar of exhibitors on the SUIP website – www.suip.co.uk.

Ends

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