



DRAFT News Release

New Director of The Gi Festival announced

Katrina Brown, Director of the Common Guild, is to be the Director of the Glasgow International Festival of Contemporary Visual Arts in 2010 and 2012 it was announced today, 13 May 2008. Glasgow-born Brown has almost 20 years of experience as a curator and visual arts administrator including significant roles both at Tate Liverpool and Dundee Contemporary Arts, where her programme made the city an internationally acclaimed centre for the visual arts. Brown's longstanding relationship with Glasgow's visual arts community dates back to 1991 when she joined the Committee at Transmission and includes a spell at Tramway, working with Charles Esche (now Director of the Van Abbe Museum, Eindhoven). Brown was also Visual Arts Projects Curator of the first, *Radiance* Lighting Festival. In 2006 Katrina Brown established The Common Guild a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to producing a dynamic, international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events. Hugely respected in the visual arts world, Brown has also brought her expertise to a range of other professional appointments including Venice Biennial Advisory Committee (British Council) 2008-09, Comité technique d'Achat (purchase committee), FRAC des Pays de la Loire, 2005 – 2008 Board of Governors, Glasgow School of Art, 2004, Selector, Beck's Futures, 2004 Selector, Jerwood Artists Platform, 2003. For full CV see Notes for Editors.

"Katrina Brown was selected from a very strong short list," said Mark O'Neill, Chair of the Steering Group for the Gi Festival. *"She has the vision, organizational experience and international network needed to take Gi to the next stage of development. Building on the solid foundations created by Francis McKee, who led the first three festivals, the stage is set for Gi to become one of the world's leading international art festivals , and, by reaching an ever wider local audience, to become embedded in the life of the city."*

"This is a truly exciting and important opportunity," says Brown. *"The next festival, taking place in 2010, will be 20 years on from Glasgow's reign as European Capital of Culture and a significant moment both to reflect on our achievements in the visual arts and to look at what more we can do. Gi allows for a unique celebration of the visual arts in the city through a two-way mirror, reflecting what is happening in the city while allowing us to look outward to the rest of the world, bringing to the city something of the global context in which so many of our artists continue to thrive I look forward to building on this year's successes and to*

working with the fantastic backdrop of the city of Glasgow and its particular places and spaces, from the derelict or disused to the gorgeously grand..”

“The Scottish Arts Council is delighted that Katrina Brown has been appointed as the Director of Glasgow International (2010 and 2012,)” says Amanda Catto, Head of Visual Arts “Katrina brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the role, and we look forward to working with her and the rest of the GI team as they build on the significant achievements of the Festival to date. GI is a nationally and internationally significant event for the visual arts in Scotland, harnessing the energy and commitment of artists and arts organisations in the city, and as a key partner we are pleased to confirm Scottish Arts Council flexible funding for the Festival until 2011.”

ENDS

For further information, interviews and images contact:

Lesley Booth 0779 941 4474 press@glasgowinternational.org

Notes for Editors

- The contract to create the artistic programme for the 2010 and 2012 Gi Festivals was awarded to The Common Guild following an international tendering process.
- The Gi Festival is supported by a partnership of Culture and Sport Glasgow, Glasgow: Scotland with Style, Scottish Arts Council, Scottish Enterprise and Visit Scotland.
- Jean Cameron, Producer of the 2008 Gi Festival, will produce both the 2010 and 2012 Festivals.

2008 Gi Festival

- ***Forever Changes***, Jim Lambie’s 2008 Gi Festival/ Glasgow Museums co-commission, is attracting over 2,000 visitors a day to the Gallery of Modern Art
- All the galleries participating in the 2008 Gi Festival saw an uplift in visitor numbers as compared with usual attendance
- Expressions of interest have been received from International galleries to show Gi Festival commissions including three for Wilhelm Sansal’s ***The Other Church***.
- The Gi Festival You Tube site received in excess of 2,000 viewings during the three weeks of the Festival
- The Gi Festival website has received over ??? hits since the beginning of 2008.

What the critics said:

Glasgow's art festival is bursting with energy. Adrian Searle has a ball..... Glasgow has the most developed arts scene outside London, and many empty spaces. Successful local artists tend to stay (even if, like Douglas Gordon, they spend protracted periods in New York or Berlin), and the city supports a number of commercial galleries - The Modern Institute, Sorcha Dallas, the improbably named Mary Mary, as well as public sector spaces and museums. It's all extremely well done. I hope future Glasgow Internationals can keep it that way.

The Guardian

In its first year as a grown-up biennial, the Glasgow International arts festival has lost none of the energy of its original incarnation as the underground upstart off-shoot of the staid annual Art Fair.... Consider all of [events in this year's programme] together and Glasgow International begins to look less like a festival in the ordinary sense and more like a new thread woven into the city's cultural fabric.

The Herald

"The city's international art festival is back in fine style with stunning events including a scary high-wire act and a leather SputnikGlasgow is galvanised. The banners fly high in the breeze. Everything from a public bathhouse to a derelict factory may be a venue. Artists have flown in from as far as New York and Shanghai and the place is thick with international curators pounding the streets. The Gi, is once again active."

The Observer

RECENTLY, in the course of bureaucratic duties, I've been trying to sum up Glasgow's contemporary art scene and the aspiration of Glasgow International, its visual arts festival which opened on Friday. I always end up with the same kind of meaningless equations, silly metaphors and contradictions. It's local. It's international. It's low-key, stealthy, and intimate. It's a super flashy world famous brand. It's intellectual, stern and conceptual. It's a sensual party animal. It's only ever seen in a second-hand leather jacket and it doesn't believe in labels. I give up. If you were to sum up Glasgow's art scene in two words it might as well be these two: Jim Lambie.

Scotland on Sunday

Glasgow is famous for its energetic art scene, and this is reflected in the strength of this year's Gi festival

The Telegraph

What the funders said:

"This year, The Gi Festival has been a wonderful and inspiring event for Glasgow. Some of the exhibitions have created such a buzz throughout the city that I'm already looking forward to the next Gi. Every time it comes round it gets bigger and better and attracts tourists from all over the world to Scotland to enjoy Glasgow's galleries and exhibitions"

Bailie Liz Cameron, Chair of Culture and Sport Glasgow said:

"This year's Festival has been a terrific event and EventScotland is delighted to be working with Gi. Gi is an important festival in our events portfolio, which is helping to promote Scotland around the world, attract international visitors and sustain Scotland's image as a leading destination for major events."

Paul Bush OBE, Chief Operating Officer for EventScotland said:

"Glasgow international provided a wonderful platform for us to showcase the city's diverse and vibrant contemporary visual arts scene to a global audience. During this year's festival, GCMB hosted 17 journalists and broadcasters from New York, Paris, Berlin, Dublin and London, which is testament to the strength of the Gi programme, as well as Glasgow's style and cultural credentials."

Scott Taylor, Chief Executive of Glasgow City Marketing Bureau, said:

A film about Gi, commissioned by GCMB, and produced by local film makers, The Forest of Black, may be viewed at www.seeglasgow.com <<http://www.seeglasgow.com>> and www.glasgowinternational.org <<http://www.glasgowinternational.org>> from today, Tuesday, May 13.

"The Gi Festival is one of a number of major events putting Glasgow on the international events calendar and Scottish Enterprise is delighted to confirm its commitment to support the Festival to 2012 setting ambitious targets for growth which we believe we can achieve."

Lynne Pringle, senior project manager at Scottish Enterprise