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THE COMMON GUILD ANNOUNCES 2008 PROGRAMME

Today, **TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2008**, **KATRINA BROWN**, Director of **THE COMMON GUILD**, Glasgow, announced details of the organisation's inaugural programme for 2008.

Committed to the development and presentation of world-class contemporary programmes of visual arts projects, events and exhibitions, working with artists from the UK and abroad, Brown's inaugural programme includes new exhibitions featuring the work of **ADEL ABDESSEMED**, **RONI HORN**, **CERITH WYN EVANS** and others; rare and unmissable events by the likes of **THE RODNEY GRAHAM BAND** and a series of talks introducing views from elsewhere by leaders in the visual arts.

Spearheading the first season of talks this spring will be art world luminaries, **JENNI LOMAX**, Director of Camden Arts Centre, London; **VASIF KORTUN**, Director of Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, Istanbul, **NICOLAUS SCHAFHAUSEN**, Director of Witte de With, Rotterdam / Cologne; **JULIANA ENGBERG**, Director of ACCA (Australian Centre for Contemporary Art), and **RICHARD FLOOD**, Curator, The New Museum, New York.

Announcing the 2008 programme, Katrina Brown, Director, The Common Guild said:

"We're excited about the range of projects from one-off events to long-term programmes that we have lined up, our collaboration with Gi in April and the fantastic line-up of people we'll be working with, many of whom are working in Scotland for the first time. It's a busy year."

EXHIBITIONS

ALWAYS BEGINS BY DEGREES

1 – 29 March 2008

21 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow, G3

Opening hours: Thursday – Saturday 12 pm-7 pm or by appointment

Tel: +44 (0)141 223 0087 / www.thecommonguild.org.uk

FREE admission

Always Begins By Degrees is an exhibition of diverse works by international brought together by Common Guild Director, Katrina Brown and artist **DOUGLAS GORDON**.

Conceived as the introduction to a new series of exhibitions to be presented at **21 WOODLANDS TERRACE**, Glasgow, the exhibition's title is borrowed from poet Emily Dickinson via artist Roni Horn. The exhibition will reference many inter-connections and relationships: between past, present and future or between words and images. It will include works by Adel Abdessemed, Roni Horn, Philippe Parreno, Marine Hugonnier, Cerith Wyn Evans, Anna Gaskell and Pavel Büchler

Owned by Douglas Gordon, the property has been offered to The Common Guild as a home for its initial exhibition programming in the city. In addition to the two large rooms and expansive central stairway to be used as exhibition space, the property benefits from a large, unique library, designed by artist **ANDREW MILLER**, complete with Gordon's own collection of books, which will also be made available to visitors.

The project is supported by the Scottish Arts Council, Glasgow City Council and The Elephant Trust.

ADEL ABDESSEMED

In association with the Gi Festival 2008.

11 April – 7 June 2008

21 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow G3

Opening hours: Thursday – Saturday 12 pm-7 pm or by appointment

Tel: +44 (0)141 223 0087 / www.thecommonguild.org.uk

FREE admission

Fresh from solo shows in New York (P.S.1, 2007) and Grenoble (Le Magasin, Feb 2008) Adel Abdessemed presents his first solo show in the UK. Abdessemed has attracted increasing attention in recent years for his punchy and poetic work. Though diverse in form, his works are characterised by a simple, straightforward and transparent use of his chosen media – including video, photography, sculpture and drawing - and an often playful approach to existent forms, symbols or conventions.

Abdessemed has presented solo exhibitions at Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Genève (2004) and participated in the 2003 and 2007 Venice Biennales; 2006 Dak'art Biennial, 2001 and 2005 Tirana Biennials, 2001 Yokohama Triennial, 2000 Busan Biennial, and Manifesta 3 (2000). In 2000–01 Abdessemed was part of the P.S.1 International Studio Program.

Abdessemed grew up in Algeria before leaving for France in 1994 at the height of the Civil War. He has since lived in Paris, Berlin and New York.

Abdessemed's work is permeated by a way of thinking that does not intend to demonstrate a specific point of view but nevertheless carries within it a light, amused critique of the contemporary world. ... The echoes linking the works come together to describe the "global mess" that, according to the artist, characterizes our current situation, where blends and mixtures allow integration while at the same time threatening identity, where nationalist fervor leads to the will for domination.'

Guitemie Maldonado. Artforum, February 2006

The exhibition is supported by The Elephant Trust

EVENTS

THE RODNEY GRAHAM BAND LIVE

FEATURING THE AMAZING ROTARY PSYCHO-OPTICON

A collaboration with the Public Art Fund, New York.

In association with the Gi Festival 2008.

Friday 25th April 2008

8pm

ABC, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow

Tickets: In person ABC Ticket Shop / Online: www.ticketmaster.co.uk

"It was rock that got me into painting. Being a painter is an extension of the performance idea that started with my interventions into serious music." - Rodney Graham

A rare, unmissable UK performance for renowned Vancouver-based artist Rodney Graham and his band. Though best known as an artist for his films, photographs and installations, music has been a major part of Graham's work throughout his career: from performing with the band 'UJ3RK5' in Vancouver in the late 1970s, through composing soundtracks for slide and film works to, most recently, recordings and performances as a singer-songwriter, including the CDs *Rock is Hard*, *I'm a Noise Man* and his 2007 album *Why Look for Good Times?*.

'Graham has always kept the question open: Am I a musician trapped in an artist's mind or an artist trapped in a musician's body?'

Kim Gordon

Graham was born in 1949 in Vancouver, where he lives and works. His work can be found in a number of public collections worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Solo

exhibitions include a retrospective (2004-05) that toured venues including MoCA, Los Angeles, ICA, Philadelphia and Vancouver Art Gallery; BaWAG Foundation, Vienna (2007); Sprengel Museum, Hanover (2006); Bergen Kunsthalle (2006); Musee d'art Contemporain de Montreal (2006); K21, Dusseldorf (2003); Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (2001); Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2001). He has participated in landmark exhibitions, representing Canada at the Venice Biennale in 1997, documenta IX in 1992 and Sculpture Projects Münster in 1987.

DETOURS

Detours is a new series of talks introducing views from elsewhere by leaders in the visual arts. Realised with the collaboration of Glasgow School of Art's Centre for Art in Social Contexts, Detours brings speakers to Glasgow to reflect on the relationship between practice and context: how institutions and professional practices develop in response to specific situations, both geographic and cultural.

All talks are free and take place in the unique **TRADES HALL OF GLASGOW**, designed by **ROBERT ADAM** in 1791-94 – which, the medieval cathedral aside, is the oldest building in Glasgow still in regular use for its original purpose.

Commencing in March 2008, Detours will run over three years, with 'seasons' of talks in March–May and October–November. All talks will take place on Thursday evenings at 7pm, with the dates and details for the first season as follows:

JENNI LOMAX - London

6 March 2008

7.00pm – 8.00pm

The Trades Hall of Glasgow, 85 Glassford Street, G1 1UH

To book/more info, tel: +44 (0)141 223 0087 / E-mail: info@thecommonguild.org.uk /

www.thecommonguild.org.uk

FREE but please book as places are limited

Jenni Lomax is Director of Camden Arts Centre, London.

VASIF KORTUN - Istanbul

20 March 2008

7.00pm – 8.00pm

The Trades Hall of Glasgow, 85 Glassford Street, G1 1UH

To book/more info, tel: +44 (0)141 223 0087 / E-mail: info@thecommonguild.org.uk /

www.thecommonguild.org.uk

FREE but please book as places are limited

Vasif Kortun is Director of Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, Istanbul. He co-curated the Istanbul Biennial 2005 and was previously the founding Director of the Museum of the Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College.

NICOLAUS SCHAFHAUSEN - Rotterdam

17 April 2008

7.00pm – 8.00pm

The Trades Hall of Glasgow, 85 Glassford Street, G1 1UH

To book/more info, tel: +44 (0)141 223 0087 / E-mail: info@thecommonguild.org.uk /

www.thecommonguild.org.uk

FREE but please book as places are limited

Nicolaus Schafhausen, Director, Witte De With, Rotterdam and former director of the European Kunsthalle Project in Cologne and Frankfurter Kunstverein offers his perspective on the relationship between the visual arts institution and its location: how programmes develop for places.

Presented in conjunction with the Centre for Art in Social Contexts, Glasgow School of Art.

JULIANA ENGBERG - Melbourne

24 April 2008

7.00pm – 8.00pm

The Trades Hall of Glasgow, 85 Glassford Street, G1 1UH

To book/more info, tel: +44 (0)141 223 0087 / E-mail: info@thecommonguild.org.uk /

www.thecommonguild.org.uk

FREE but please book as places are limited

The Common Guild, together with the Visual Arts and Galleries Association's (VAGA) seminar *cultural domains*, present a talk by leading Australian curator, Juliana Engberg.

Engberg has curated many international exhibitions, including the first Melbourne Biennial in 1999. She has been Artistic Director of ACCA (the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art) in Melbourne since opening in its landmark, custom-designed building in 2002. ACCA is the only major public art gallery in Australia focused on commissioning rather than collecting.

RICHARD FLOOD - New York

15 May 2008

7.00pm – 8.00pm

The Trades Hall of Glasgow, 85 Glassford Street, G1 1UH

To book/more info, tel: +44 (0)141 223 0087 / E-mail: info@thecommonguild.org.uk /

www.thecommonguild.org.uk

FREE but please book as places are limited

Richard Flood is Curator, The New Museum, New York and formerly of the Walker Arts Centre in Minneapolis.

For further press information, please contact:

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. THE COMMON GUILD is a visual arts organisation based in Glasgow. Established in 2006, its Director is Katrina Brown.

2. THE COMMON GUILD is dedicated to producing a dynamic international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events. These include gallery-based exhibitions and ephemeral, non-gallery projects, interventions and collaborations. THE COMMON GUILD is committed to artist-centred practice, commissioning new works, while offering broad public access to world-class contemporary art experiences and discussions.

It aims to open up discussion and awareness of contemporary art in Glasgow and beyond, introducing voices from elsewhere.

3. KATRINA BROWN is founding Director of The Common Guild and is leading the development of all aspects of the organisation and its programme. From 1997, Katrina was Curator / Deputy Director of the highly successful Dundee Contemporary Arts, opened in 1999. She was responsible for its internationally-renowned programme of outstanding visual arts exhibitions, which has introduced a number of significant international artists to Scottish and UK audiences (including Olafur Eliasson, Ernesto Neto, David Claerbout, Marine Hugonnier, Thomas Demand) as well as supported artists based in Scotland via the commissioning of new works and publications (Christine Borland, Richard Wright, Roderick Buchanan and most recently David Shrigley). Prior to this, she worked at Tate Liverpool and Tramway, Glasgow and was a committee member of Transmission Gallery in the early 1990s.

4. THE COMMON GUILD is a charitable, not-for-profit organisation.

5. THE COMMON GUILD receives project support from the Scottish Arts Council and Glasgow City Council

Scottish Charity No.: SCO21428

6. THE COMMON GUILD is located: Suite 5, 2nd Floor, 73 Robertson Street
Glasgow, G2 8QD Tel: +44 (0)141 223 0087 / E-mail: info@thecommonguild.org.uk /
www.thecommonguild.org.uk