

ARTIST
ROOMS

ON TOUR WITH THE

ArtFund

DUNOON
BURGH HALL

Robert Mapplethorpe comes to Dunoon

ARTIST ROOMS' Scottish tour of radical American photographer kicks off at Burgh Hall, Dunoon, on 24th March

The UK's most unlikely cultural venue, the Burgh Hall in Dunoon, will present '*Robert Mapplethorpe*', an exhibition of radical photography by one of the most iconic and controversial American artists of the twentieth century. The exhibition runs from 24th March to 8th July 2012.

Drawn from the ARTIST ROOMS collection of contemporary art given to the nation by Anthony d'Offay, and presented as part of the ARTIST ROOMS on tour with the Art Fund programme, the exhibition will travel on to venues in Linlithgow and Perth later this year as part of a special project to bring the work of this fascinating provocateur to parts of Scotland which seldom see contemporary art displayed in their galleries.

The Burgh Hall is the smallest and most unorthodox gallery on the Scottish Mapplethorpe tour, and this is the first exhibition by a major international contemporary artist to be presented anywhere in the West of Scotland. Funded and built by the people of Dunoon and once the centre of civic life in the small Argyllshire town, the Burgh Hall, completed in 1873, fell into disrepair in the 1960s and was only saved from demolition in 2009 by a local campaign and the intervention of the John McAslan Family Trust.

The architect John McAslan, born in the area and brought up in Dunoon, has led the redevelopment of King's Cross Station, which opened to wide acclaim earlier this month. The practice is also renowned for its imaginative renovation of cultural buildings, including London's Roundhouse and Bexhill's De La Warr Pavilion. John McAslan and his wife Dava Sagenkahn have spear-headed the project to restore the Burgh Hall and establish it as the heart of the town's public and cultural life, redeveloping it as both a cross-disciplinary arts venue and a multi-purpose community centre.

“Critical to the success of the project has been the unstinting commitment and energy of the people of Dunoon, in particular the work of the Burgh Hall Project Group under the leadership of Chairman Colin Macpherson”, said John McAslan.

Dava Sagenkahn of the John McAslan Family Trust said: “We could not be more thrilled to welcome the sometimes dark, often dangerous but always beautiful art of Robert Mapplethorpe into the programme at the Burgh Hall. Thanks to ARTIST ROOMS and the support of the Art Fund in touring the collection, we can now bring some of the most famous and challenging photographs of the twentieth century directly to the people of Dunoon and the wider community in Argyll, allowing an audience keen to explore and discover the best contemporary art to encounter this work personally and intimately.”

“Whilst to date the project has raised significant funding from national bodies and private fundraising initiatives, much work is needed”, said McAslan, “with funding applications due later this year to raise funds to complete the project by 2014.”

Stephen Deuchar, Director of the Art Fund, said: “Bringing the challenging yet seductive art of Robert Mapplethorpe to this distinguished Scottish seaside town is precisely the kind of bold exhibition we wanted to make possible when we sponsored the ARTIST ROOMS tour. There is an appetite for art everywhere in this country, not just in the big cities, and we’re really proud to be able to bring such important work directly to galleries that rarely have access to such work.”

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

ADDRESS: Burgh Hall, 195 Argyll Street, Dunoon, PA23 7DD, Scotland

TELEPHONE: 01369 703302

EMAIL: info@burghhalldunoon.com

OPENING HOURS: Tue – Sat 12 – 5pm, Sunday 12 – 3pm, open Easter weekend

EXHIBITION DATES: 24 March – 8 July 2012

Antony D’Offay will be in conversation with John Leighton, Director of the National Galleries of Scotland, on Saturday 24 March at 1.30pm

PR CONTACTS

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Notes to editors

The Burgh Hall is Dunoon's most important civic building, funded and built in 1873 by the local people of Dunoon. Rescued from demolition in 2009 by the John McAslan Family Trust, The Burgh

Hall is being returned to the heart of the community as an art-led venue offering audiences diverse cultural opportunities. For more information, please visit:

www.mcaslan-family-trust.com

ARTIST ROOMS exhibitions and displays are from the collection assembled by Anthony d'Offay. ARTIST ROOMS is owned jointly by Tate and National Galleries of Scotland and was established through The d'Offay Donation in 2008, with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Art Fund and the Scottish and British Governments. ARTIST ROOMS On Tour with the Art Fund has been devised to enable this collection to reach and inspire new audiences across the country, particularly young people.

The Art Fund is the national charity which helps museums and galleries to buy, show and share art for the enjoyment of all. Over the past five years, the Art Fund has given over £24 million towards art of all kinds, from Old Masters to new media, and supported a range of programmes which share and show art to wider audiences, including the national tour of ARTIST ROOMS and the Art Fund Prize for museums. The Art Fund is independently funded and the majority of its income comes from 90,000 supporters who purchase a National Art Pass, costing from £50, which gives free entry to over 200 museums, galleries and historic houses across the country as well as 50% off many major exhibitions.

Find out more about the Art Fund and the National Art Pass at www.artfund.org.uk. The press office can be reached on 020 7225 4888 or media@artfund.org