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Postcard Challenge for Scottish Artists

Over 150 Scottish contemporary artists have risen to the challenge of producing pocket-sized pieces of artwork for the annual Christmas Postcard Exhibition at the RGI Kelly Gallery which runs from 3-18 December (Mon - Fri 10.30am - 5pm Saturday 10.30am - 1pm).

Every year, artists who have exhibited at past RGI annual exhibitions, including those whose work was showcased at the recent 149th Annual Exhibition at The Mitchell, are invited to submit work to the postcard exhibition.

While the art may fit through a postbox, the brief is broad as the artists are not required to adhere to a Christmas theme. Titles of this year's postcards range from the seasonal *Christmas Fairy 2010* by Claire Harrigan RSW, and *Hey you with the Smudgy Nose* by Denise Findlay, through to *Summer Moon* by Stuart Buchanan and *Rosetti's Madonna* by Marj Bond RSW.

At £250 for each postcard, art enthusiasts have the opportunity to buy an affordable piece of art by artists such as Patrica Cain winner of both the 2010 Aspect Prize the 2010 Threadneedle Prize, Glen Scouller RSW RGI, and Neil MacPherson, the most recent RGI.

Artist Blair Thomson, who has several postcard exhibitions under his artistic belt says: "I particularly enjoy the challenge of having to work on a small scale as you can have fun playing around with different materials and trying out different things.

"My postcard for the 2010 exhibition is a mixed media piece called *Watergate, Tokyo*, which is ink and oil pastel on board. It is based semi-abstractly on this mysterious city river structure at the side of the Sumidagawa River, the Tokyo version of the Thames I guess."

Journalists are cordially invited to a private view of the Christmas Postcard Exhibition at the RGI Kelly Gallery on Thursday December 2 from 5.30 – 7.30pm.

ends

For further information contact Heather MacLeod on 0789111157 or words@heather.uk.net

The RGI Kelly Gallery 118 Douglas Street Glasgow G2 4ET Tel: 0141 248 6386
www.rgiscotland.co.uk Admission free.

Notes for editors

The RGI's first annual exhibition in 1861 at the McLellan Galleries attracted a huge number of submissions and over 39,000 visitors – many on 'Working Men's Tickets'.

The award of RGI is made to artists for artistic merit and dedication to the Institute,

and there are only 50 RGIs at any given time.

The RGI's Kelly Gallery hosts a full programme of exhibitions, talks and events. The RGI's Annual Exhibition is the largest open exhibition in Scotland with a significant number of prizes. The choosing panel is made up established artists.

Next year is particularly significant for the RGI as 2011 is the Institute's 150th anniversary.

