

31st May 2011

Charing Cross in the Rain

Glasgow artist celebrates cityscapes around the world

From Glasgow tenements to Hong Kong high rises, artist **Alastair Strachan's** fascination with urban life around the world is the inspiration behind his solo show ***Cityscapes*** at the **RGI Kelly Gallery** which runs from 31 May until 11 June.

Exploring cities and forming an awareness of the urban landscape is part of Alastair's creative practice, which finds him returning to particular locations that are significant to him, including Manhattan, Tokyo, and his native Glasgow.

Explains Alastair, who graduated from Edinburgh College of Art in 1981:

"I try to recapture the emotional thrill of flying into a foreign city for the first time, not knowing the language or the structure, then landing, walking, exploring, drawing, and taking photographs, collecting maps, eating, drinking and sometimes getting lost.

"The paintings come later once the new has become more familiar, and are of places visited and experienced in person but also seen through the eyes of others, researched from the comfort of home through the online records of personal journeys of other travellers."

The titles of the works, which are all acrylic on board, in the ***Cityscapes*** exhibition include *Madison Rush Hour*, *Singapore Red Sky*, *Seoul Night*, *Hong Kong Harbour Night* and *Charing Cross Heavy Rain*.

Alastair was shortlisted for the Jolomo Scottish Landscape Awards 2009, and his paintings are held in various collections around the world, throughout Britain, Canada, Hong Kong and Germany.

Alastair will be giving an informal talk at the Kelly Gallery about the work exhibited this Saturday 4 June at 1pm. A free event - no need to book - and all welcome.

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For further information or images, contact gallery curator Lynne Mackenzie on 0141 248 6386 curator@royalglasgowinstitute.org or Heather MacLeod on 07891144157 words@heather.uk.net

The Royal Glasgow Institute, Kelly Gallery, 118 Douglas Street, Glasgow G2 4 ET
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Notes for editors

2011 is the 150th anniversary of The Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts.

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'.

It may have been founded back in 1861 but the Institute is forward thinking in promoting and encouraging Scotland's contemporary art and artists.

The RGI continues to host this major annual exhibition at The Mitchell, which offers awards to selected artists, including several expressly aimed at young painters and sculptors, or first time exhibitors.

The RGI's Kelly Gallery at 118 Douglas Street, Glasgow G2 4ET hosts a full programme of exhibitions, talks and events, and has recently appointed Lynne Mackenzie as Gallery Curator & Project Manager, and Amy Marletta as Assistant Curator.

The Kelly is available for business or private evening events.

