

***Heart & Sole* at the RGI Kelly Gallery**

First solo show from Rebecca Barnett

You are cordially invited to the private view of Rebecca Barnett's first solo show, *Heart & Sole*, at the RGI Kelly Gallery, 118 Douglas Street, Glasgow on Friday 29 July from 5 - 7pm. The exhibition runs from 26 July to 6 August.

While there's a mystical quality to Lochgilphead based artist Rebecca Barnett's work, a children's paddling pool plays a pivotal role in the process of creating her woodcut prints.

Explains Rebecca, who studied animation at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design in Dundee, "the paddling pool is used to soak the paper prior to being pressed on an inked hand carved plate and rolling through a giant mangle."

During the run up to her first solo show at the RGI Kelly Gallery (26 July - 6 August) which features over 20 quirky woodcut prints inspired by the romance of the sea, the paddling pool has been working overtime.

"As I have sea views from my home and walk on the beach every day, it's not difficult to imagine why I chose fish for the theme of this new show," says Rebecca.

"I've been working on the woodcut prints for the past year, and have had great fun with playing with words for the titles. As well as the piece from which the show takes its title, there's *Fish Cake* which is a cake on a cake-stand overflowing with blue fish, *Heart & Sole* with two lemon sole in the shape of a love heart, and *That's Amore* which features a Moray Eel.

"The process of woodcut printing is quite physical which suits me as I love using my hands. The best bit is when the finished print reveals itself - you're never quite sure how it will look until you roll it through the press and peel the damp embossed paper off the plate, it's an exciting moment!"

Rebecca who exhibits throughout Scotland has a strong connection with the RGI and has exhibited at The Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts, summer show held at Crinan, and the RGI's annual exhibition at The Mitchell in Glasgow. This year, the RGI is celebrating its 150th anniversary, with the annual show running from 23 October until 12 November.

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For interviews with Rebecca, 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 www.royalglasgowinstitute.org

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.

