

20th April 2011

**Founding director of The Lighthouse gives insider's perspective on
Glasgow's Park District**

One of Scotland's most distinguished architects and artists, is sharing his unique perspective of Glasgow's famous Park District in a new exhibition of paintings at the RGI Kelly Gallery in Douglas Street, Glasgow.

The 'Park' exhibition which runs from 3 – 14 May, features new works by the founding director of The Lighthouse, Prof Stuart Macdonald OBE, who is also Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Architecture School at Strathclyde University and Emeritus Professor of Creative Industries at The Robert Gordon University.

The exhibition features paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolour, with much of the visual stimulus derived from the neo-classical environment of The Park District where Professor Macdonald lives and works.

"The basis of my work is architecture and the visual elements include walls, porticos, door-frames, boundaries - architraves, that help create an abstract pictorial narrative," explains Prof Macdonald.

"The critical context for my work is the concept of the 'Classic' and its association with the clarification of formal values and the concept of timeless qualities - with aesthetics and pictorial narration.

"At the same time I am interested in how Modernism provided the ultimate shattering of this concept and how the Classic came to represent everything that was opposed. Today it is Modernism that provides the familiar narrative whereas the Classic is now estranged. Bringing those opposites together is a key aspect of my work."

As Director of the Lighthouse, Professor Macdonald was a key figure in the promotion of Scotland's architecture and creative industries policies, and was involved in numerous public art and urban design initiatives, as well as initiating the 2007 Six Cities Design Festival. He has written and lectured widely on art, design, architecture, education and the creative industries.

"In terms of the visual arts, Glasgow, and the Park District in particular, is a great place to live and work," concludes Prof MacDonald.

The Kelly Gallery is delighted that in tandem with the exhibition, Prof Macdonald, will be on hand to talk about his work at the gallery on Saturday 14 May at 1pm as part of *Festival Museums 2011*.

The exhibition runs from 3 May - 14 May. Press & photographers are cordially invited to the private view on Thursday 5 May from 5 - 7 pm.

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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
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Notes for editors

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

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'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 RGI continues to host this major annual exhibition at the Mitchell Library, 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.

