

The RGIs at the Kelly Gallery

Dame Elizabeth Blackadder? Barbara Rae? John Byrne? Just who will be submitting work to the Kelly Gallery's latest exhibition, The RGIs, is set to remain a mystery until the show opens on 12 April.

What's certain is that the exhibition, which is part of the celebrations to mark 150 years of The Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts, will showcase the work of some of Scotland's most distinguished contemporary artists, giving the public a rare opportunity to view and purchase work by current RGIs.

The award of RGI is made to artists for artistic merit and their dedication to the Institute, and there are only 50 of them at any given time. Current RGIs include Glen Scouller, George Wyllie, Simon Laurie, and Neil Macpherson the most recent artist to receive the award. Scottish poet laureate Liz Lochhead and artist/playwright John Byrne are Honorary RGIs.

RGI President Gordon Macpherson has invited all 50 RGIs to submit work to The RGIs Exhibition which runs at the Kelly Gallery from 12 to 30 April. While it is hoped that all 50 will contribute to the show, gallery curator, Lynne Mackenzie, will not finalise the catalogue until the eleventh hour. The most recent RGI, Caithness-based Neil MacPherson, is submitting two paintings, one of which is *Spring The Quiet Song*, an oil on canvas inspired by a Highland folk saying that if Spring comes in like a quiet girl singing, the rest of the year will be lovely. The painting shows Spring as a young girl gently blowing through the sky bringing thoughts of renewal, growth and love with her.

"The RGI has always been important to me," points out Neil who studied at the Glasgow School of Art from 1974 to 1978, "as the first contemporary art exhibition I ever visited was its annual show which at that time was held at the McLellan Galleries. The visit to the show was organized by my art teacher and I think I was the only one who wanted to go along.

"I remember going along and thinking, 'wow', and couldn't believe that all this work was going on in Glasgow. At that time, I didn't imagine for a minute that I'd be exhibiting work at an annual show, let alone become an RGI."

The RGIs runs at the Kelly Gallery, 118 Douglas Street, Glasgow G2 4ET from 12-30 April.

You are cordially invited to the private view on Saturday 9 April 11am to 1pm.

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For further information or images, contact Lynne Mackenzie at the Kelly Gallery or Heather MacLeod on 07891144157 words@heather.uk.net

Gallery opening hours: Tues – Fri 10.30am – 5pm, Saturday 10.30am – 3pm.

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Notes for editors

The Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts (Charity No SC044650)

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.



Spring the Quiet Song by Neil MacPherson RGI