

PRESS RELEASE

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Open Eye Gallery

34 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh EH3 6QE



ALAN DAVIE CBE HRSA

Friday 24th June to Tuesday 12th July 2011

Private View: Thursday 23rd June 2011

Born in Grangemouth, near Edinburgh, in 1920, Davie trained at Edinburgh College of Art from 1938 to 1941. After the War he settled in England. In the 1950s he won international recognition for his explosive abstract paintings, which rivaled those of the American Abstract Expressionists. Working directly on the floor and without any preconceived plan, he attacked the canvas with broad, powerful brush strokes, producing some of the most powerful, epic works of the postwar period. By the end of the decade his work had been bought by some of the world's leading museums, and his success inspired many young Scottish artists.

In the 1960s Davie's brushwork became more controlled and within his imagery mysterious signs and symbols began to appear and gather in room-like settings. In 1975 Davie acquired a second home on the island of St Lucia in the Caribbean and this brought about a change in his working pattern. He would make drawings in St Lucia during the winter months, and then paintings, which develop from the drawings, in England in the summer. Reflecting this change, the paintings from the mid-1970s have a new precision and clarity. From the 1980s symbols found in sources as various as American Indian pottery, ancient maps, prehistoric stone carvings and Aboriginal art, all found their way into his work, mingling in mysterious and magical ways.

A show of Alan Davie's paintings, prints and brushworks, arranged in partnership with the Open Eye, will also run concurrently from the 6th June until the 11th August 2011 at the Burgh Halls in Linlithgow.

QUARTET: Ruth Nicol, Charlotte McDonald, Elaine Speirs and Joan Doerr

Friday 24th June to Tuesday 12th July 2011

The Open Eye Gallery welcomes four new artists: Ruth Nicol, Charlotte McDonald, Elaine Speirs and Joan Doerr.

LE CORBUSIER (1887-1965)

Friday 24th June to Saturday 6th August 2011

Complete Entre-Deux suite of seventeen lithographs, including the title page in colour, to be shown in Eye Two.

NICOLA BECCI

Friday 24th June to Saturday 6th August 2011

New collection of etched and oxidised silver and gold jewellery featuring Becci's characteristic calligraphic designs.