



The Vigorous Imagination then & now

Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Glasgow & The Fine Art Society, Edinburgh

Opening October 27th, 2017

Close November 18th, 2017

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the ground-breaking exhibition 'The Vigorous Imagination: New Scottish Art' presented at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in 1987 as the lead Edinburgh International Festival art exhibition.

Two shows will celebrate this event this coming autumn: The Fine Art Society in Edinburgh (opening on October 26) and Roger Billcliffe Gallery, Glasgow (opening on October 27) will run concurrent exhibitions, which grew out of discussions between Roger Billcliffe and Clare Henry, one of the original team of selectors.

In 1987, **The Vigorous Imagination** showcased the works of 17 young artists who were making waves on the international art scene, featuring the powerful new wave of figurative art then prevalent. These included the 'New Glasgow Boys': Steven Campbell, Peter Howson, Ken Currie, Adrian Wiszniewski; renowned sculptor David Mach; photographer-installations artists Calum Colvin and Ron O'Donnell, and painters Sam Ainsley, Philip Braham, Gwen Hardie, Ian Hughes, Keith McIntyre, June Redfern, Mario Rossi, Joseph Urie & Kate Whiteford. It was a proud pronouncement that visual art in Scotland was vibrant, intelligent and in touch with the zeitgeist which swept across Europe during the 1980's. Since then, many of the artists have become household names.

This group came to influence the wider artistic landscape in Scotland and beyond and The Vigorous Imagination paved the way for the current crop of international artists whose fame attests to the vibrancy of Glasgow as a pivotal centre for contemporary art.

The exhibition at the Roger Billcliffe Gallery will concentrate on recent and current work by all of the artists, except for the recently deceased Steven Campbell and Ian Hughes who will be represented by historical pieces.

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