

YEAR 1

Welcoming Visitors

after an extensive refurbishment the Linlithgow Burgh Halls re-opened in 2011. New outdoor spaces, sky lights, a café, a terrace and a newly created Gallery space, purpose built for visitors and artists, were all now a part of the fabric of the building, created with the future in mind.

The bright and light filled elegant rooms opened with a new potential, to host contemporary art from national and international artists, to bring artists, their audiences and their ideas together in beautiful setting.

The first artistic inclusions into the permanent fabric of the restored building were the contemporary Delft inspired tiles by Douglas Watson studios.



Celebrating the 15 Year Anniversary of the gallery at Linlithgow Burgh Halls



Linlithgow Town Portrait (detail) by Michael McVeigh

"Happiness is an activity, not a state"

Rory Stewart at the Gallery at Linlithgow Burgh Halls, 2013

YEAR 15

With Gratitude and Appreciation,

we extend a heartfelt 'Thank you' to all the staff, visitors, freelancers, artists and everyone we have met and worked with and hosted events for during the past 15 years at the Linlithgow Burgh Halls.

Creative Scotland funding was instrumental in establishing the new gallery space and West Lothian Council has supported the continuous programming.

A huge thank you goes to everyone we have not been able to name, but you have been an important part of our Gallery and wider venue events and programme, workshops and artist talks.

Together we make our artists' community lively and meaningful, a true reflection of our interwoven stories.



These beautiful blue and white tiles which depicted all the traditional guilds that would have existed amongst the towns people when the building was originally created, were installed within what would have been the original firebox of the three fireplaces in the building, one of these being in the Gallery West Room.

The other two fireplaces in the venue were to become the locations for the second commission for artworks to be permanently displayed in the building. Original oil paintings were created for the stone frames above the mantel shelves of the Bailie Hardie Hall.

It is within these two niche window frame areas above the fireplaces, each at opposite ends of the Hall, that are home to the original dreamlike town portrait paintings by Michael McVeigh. Each portrait shows a different side to the town one in warm light and one cool blues, each work includes historic references to Linlithgow as well as whimsical interpretations of literary history by the artist.



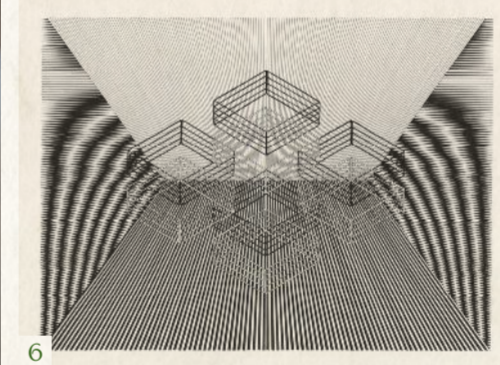
Here comes Sally by Olivia Irvine



On The Midnight Hour by June Carey



Lochnaddy Fank III by Rachel Duckhouse



Energy Light Colour exhibition by Jenne Turff



Clare Andrews Spotty Plant, 2023



Heading Home, by Leo du Feu 2026



View from Bridge 44 by Kate Downie



296 / 22 Down over Campy Stron by Richard Hoare



Grounded by Tansy Lee Moir, 2022



Lifeline by Ade Adesina



Unknown by Allison Kinnaird



has been a main focus of the gallery and from the inaugural exhibition Kate Downie (182) 'Dialogue with the Land', the gallery has been host to a wonderful array of established, emerging and contemporary artists; such as Alan Davies, Dame Elizabeth Blackadder, James Cumming Alasdair Gray, Olivia Irvine (3), Jenne Turff (4), Clare Andrews (5), Allison Kinnaird MBE (6), June Carey (7), Ade Adesina (8), Rachel Duckhouse (9), Tansy Lee Moir (10), Richard Hoare (11), Leo du Feu (12) and the list goes on.

YEAR 2

Supporting Solo Exhibitions

Not too long after, the gallery was also included in Generation 25 years of Contemporary Art across 100 artists in Scotland in over 60 venues where the work of Louise Hopkins.



Kirko on a Rug by Dame Elizabeth Blackadder RSA: Artwork loaned by Falkirk Council Museums (FCM), image by permission of RSA and FCM



Linlithgow mural, Community Festival of Time by James Cumming



Bleeding Heart Dove by Stuart Mackenzie RSA 200 anniversary, 2026



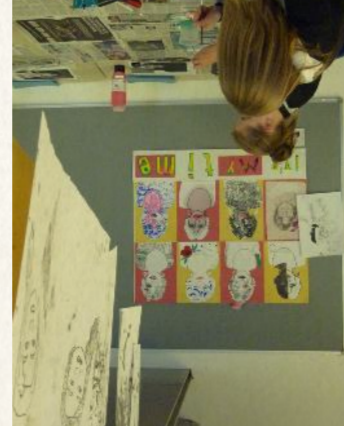
YEAR 3

Participating in National Programmes

has also been an important role for the gallery. In 2012 working with the 'Artist Rooms', the gallery was host to photographs by the controversial and iconic photographer, Robert Mapplethorpe.



Artist rooms Mapplethorpe workshop participants artworks



Artist rooms Mapplethorpe workshop participants

YEAR 4

Working in Partnership



with many other organisations where supporting artists is the focus, in 2015 Elizabeth Mackenzie RSA and Michael Agnew RSA became part of the gallery programme. Prior to that, in 2016, we hosted a retrospective of the work of James Cumming connected to his well known local mural 'Community: A Celebration of Time' in the Low Port Centre, a well-loved community centre in Linlithgow.

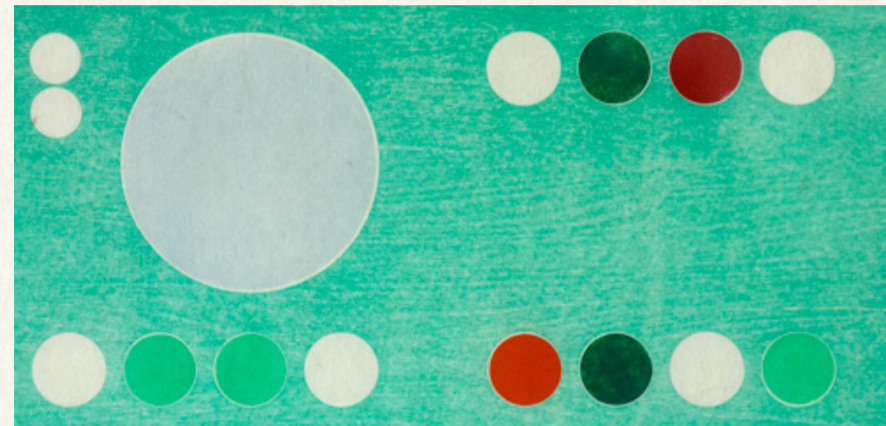
Bleeding Heart Dove by Stuart Mackenzie, RSA

YEAR 5 A Series of Firsts

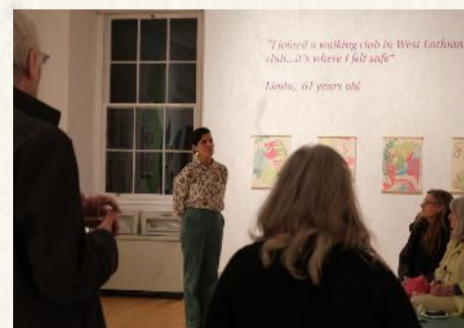
As part of the annual music grant by Creative Scotland, the Youth Music Initiative (YMI) supported a musical education pilot project which included an exhibition of Graphic Scores and children's music by primary school pupils in West Lothian schools in 2020 and 2022. The project was possible because of the integrated creative work of Limelight Music and artist Josephine Ganter whose combined skills in teaching music, visual art and composition, produced the first children's exhibition in the gallery in Linlithgow.

The world changed because of the Covid 19 Pandemic and the gallery was host to the community engagement practice and design exhibition for the 'Remembering Together' project with Bespoke Atelier, who would go on to build the memorial sculpture 'The Ribbon' as the permanent work of art that is integral to sharing the symbolic meaning of the plants in the memorial garden in Livingston.

Seeing Sound Jo Ganter and Raymond MacDonald



Remembering Together in the Gallery 2023



Remembering Together artist in the Gallery 2023

YEAR 8 The West Lothian Question

Commemorating the life of Tam Dalyell, the former MP for West Lothian, who famously raised the question in a debate on devolution to Scotland and Wales on 14 November 1977.

In 2017 his memorial service was held at St. Michael's Parish Church and his funeral tea held next door at the Linlithgow Burgh Halls. Marking a poignant and sombre civic function of the venue.



YEAR 10 Over 150 weddings

A historic place that has been the centre of bringing families and friends together, the Linlithgow Burgh Halls continues to be a beautiful backdrop to many of these special life changing moments.



YEAR 6 Bringing the World to Linlithgow

Borrowing artworks from internationally renowned artists provided other highlights of the gallery programme over the years.

Access to the touring exhibitions from the Southbank Centre in London enabled the 'Drawing with Scissors – paper cuts by Henri Matisse' and 'Earth Ephemera photographs of earth works by Andy Goldsworthy' on loan from the Gracefield gallery to be displayed in Linlithgow. In 2019 courtesy of Australian Aboriginal Art UK, bright large scale paintings transformed the rooms into highly stylised and symbolic scenes from the Outback.

Untitled by Kukula McDonald, Aboriginal Art, LBH Exhibition 2019



Aboriginal Art LBH Exhibition 2019



Australian Aboriginal Art UK, Dreamtime

YEAR 7 East Meets West

A key role of the visual arts gallery programme was supporting the Scottish tradition of welcoming cultural exchange, sharing of cultural knowledge, artistic skills, concepts of beauty as well as diverse histories and local tales.

In 2013 this brought the work of artisans from Afghanistan, through the charity founded in 2006 by His Majesty King Charles and initially led by Founding Director Rory Stewart, Turquoise Mountain, to the gallery with their first UK exhibition 'Rebuilding Kabul's Old City'. It was the most attended gallery talk in the history of the exhibitions programme and marked the first time the gallery received an international shipment of artworks for display.

A few years later, in 2015, the 'Letters for Rabbie – A Homage from Scotland, Iran and Japan' exhibition, brought together sculptor Tim Chalk, artist Jila Peacock and traditional Japanese Calligrapher Ozawa Ransetsu. Their collective appreciation of the poems by Robert Burns connected this unique exhibition of three different artistic practices and their cultural reference points. For the first time, sushi was served at an exhibition opening event.

In 2017 Artist Farkhondeh Ahmadzadeh brought us 'Haft Paykar (Seven Beauties) - Paintings inspired by a Medieval Persian Epic' which saw jewel like Persian style miniature paintings on the gallery walls, these artworks were based on a famous romantic epic poem by Persian poet Nizami Ganjavi, written in 1197, said to be an allegory for the journey of the human soul.

In 2024 sharing the skill of traditional weavers and rug makers from around the middle east, working with Edinburgh based specialists Nomad's Tent turned the gallery into a wool warmed space with an earthy scent, with live storytelling sessions supported by the Scottish Storytelling Centre.



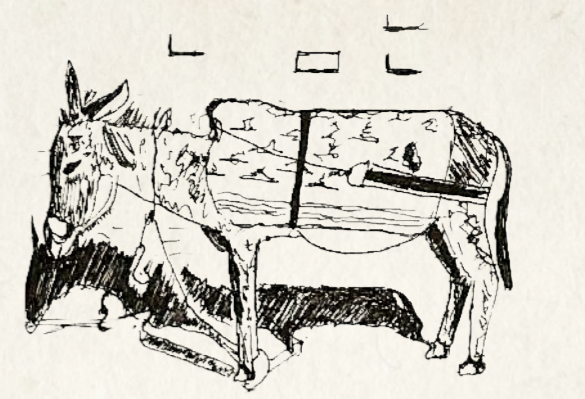
Two Lions courtesy of Nomads Tent



Illumination, Turquoise Mountain - Institute of Afghan Arts and Architecture



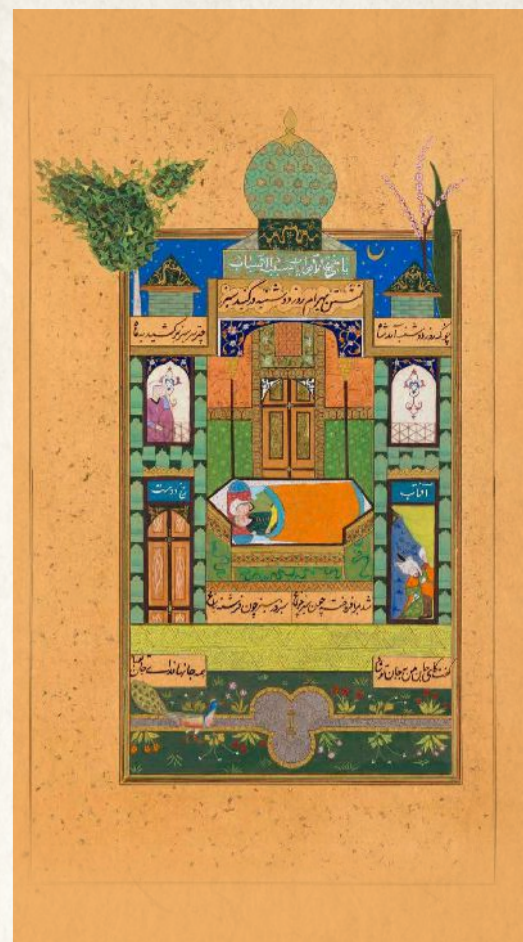
Letters for Rabbie Red Rose by Tim Chalk 2015



Donkey Sketch - Rory Stewart courtesy of Turquoise Mountain



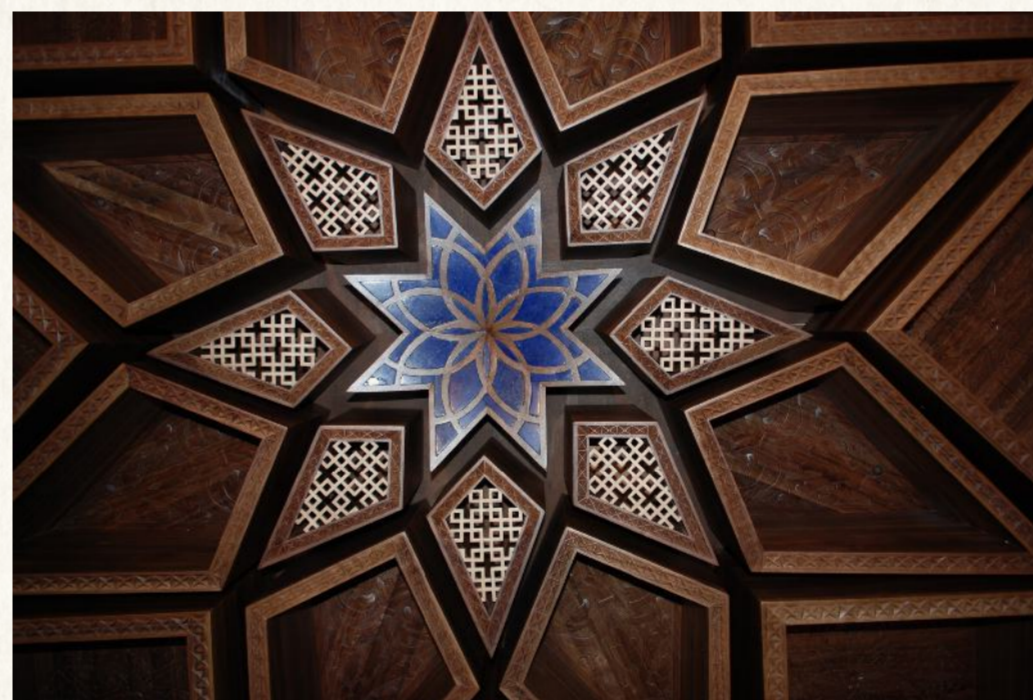
Jila Peacock and Ransetsu Ozawa with ancestors photo Letters for Rabbie



Mondays Palace by Farkhondeh Ahmadzadeh

Over a decade of celebrating The Marches - The Court of the Deacons of the Ancient and Royal Burgh of Linlithgow, known as the Deacons Court, continue to organise the Riding on the first Tuesday after the second Thursday in June every year. This culminates within the Burgh Halls where speeches and a traditional breakfast are held every year.

Linlithgow Marches, by Alastair G



Sunflower shelf detail by the artisans of Turquoise Mountain

YEAR 11 Speak to your Local Councillor - In Real Life

Serving as a place for so many meaningful events and meetings, the venue continues to be a place where local Councillors hold their weekly surgeries and meet with their constituents to fulfil their duties of listening to the ideas and concerns of the public.



HRH The Princess Royal visit quietly happened in the gallery on 18 December 2025, when the Deacon's Court met with Princess Anne to commemorate their 50th year.

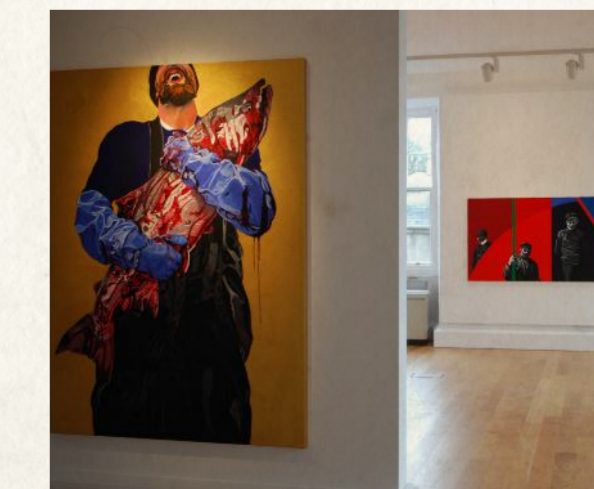
Louden Productions in 2017 filming Outlaw King at the Peel and the Chanel Métiers d'Art fashion show was held at Linlithgow Palace on December 4, 2012, a fashion event designed by Karl Lagerfeld, showcased the 2012/13 "Paris-Edimbourg" collection, included the Burgh Halls in the background as the supporting venue - hosting staff, film makers, models, visitors, fashion designers and actors in between takes!



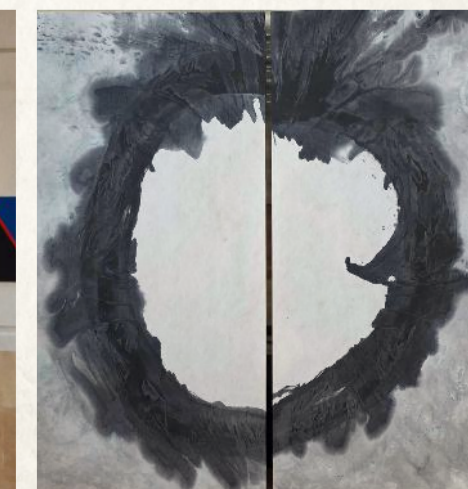
Local West Lothian Gardens Competition Awards are hosted annually at the Linlithgow Burgh Halls, where awards are presented for Best Overall Garden, Best Newcomer, Best Community Garden, Young Gardeners and specialized categories like Wildlife Gardening.

"...an incredible gallery space for both emergent and established artists. A very special place"

Stuart Mackenzie, RSA - Artist exhibitor, 2026



'Living in the Abstract' Exhibition by Clare Andrews, 2024



Ascension by Campbell Sandilands