

Robert Burns Lives!

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BURNS UNBROKE is a new adventure in the world of Robert Burns, and *Robert Burns Lives!* is proud to bring it to our readers. It is interesting, thrilling and full of thought-provoking Burns information that can easily become a favorite of many Burns readers, this editor included. The information below is very informative and those who have read our pages over the years should be happy to see what this new endeavor puts forth in the name of Burns. *BURNS UNBROKE* has agreed to share their programs and articles with our readers over the coming months. I already have another issue to publish and will be working in this area for the next few weeks. I am excited about this new venture and I believe you will be too.

A PERSONAL WORD:

I am pleased to inform you that I am well on the way to a full recovery from my heart failure episode and have a team of excellent doctors and surgeons nearby that are second to none. Their heart center has been voted the number one heart group in Georgia for the last ten years. So continue to say a word to the Good Lord as I am very interested in going to heaven but am not interested in going anytime soon! I still have too much to complete on this side as I approach my 80th birthday in a few months. Naturally the things I want to achieve involve my family, particularly Susan my wife, my son Scott, his wife Denise, and two precious grandchildren ages 17 and 15 years old, Ian and Stirling. I want to continue my work on *Robert Burns Lives!* as well as speaking engagements on Burns here and in Scotland. Selah! (FRS: 11:30.17)



Contemporary arts inspired by Robert Burns

6 November 2017

BURNS UNBROKE: NEW MULTI-ARTS FESTIVAL AT SUMMERHALL **CONTEMPORARY ARTS INSPIRED BY THE LIFE AND WORK OF** **ROBERT BURNS**

25 JANUARY – 10 MARCH 2018

Burns Unbroke opens on 25 January 2018 at Summerhall in Edinburgh. This new, contemporary, multi-arts festival will celebrate the variety of artistic and performing practices currently on offer in Scotland, and beyond, through the prism offered by

new interpretations of the life and work of Robert Burns. The inspiration for the title comes from the epigraph, which Burns marked as 'anon', printed at the beginning of his first poetry collection, the Kilmarnock edition, published in 1786*.

Visual Arts

The festival's innovative visual arts programme features over 30 visual artists (list attached – includes **Chapman Brothers, Douglas Gordon, Graham Fagen, Laura Ford** and **Holly Johnson**). Each artist explores an aspect of Burns's life or work highlighting his continuing relevance in the 21st century and will be displayed in 11 galleries in Summerhall.

There are four works created by Scottish artists which have been commissioned for Burns Unbroke - Ciara Veronica Dunne (mural), Ross Fleming (film/installation), Derrick Guild (mixed media) and Robert Powell who has been commissioned to design a map highlighting all the places in Edinburgh of relevance to Burns.

On display in the exhibitions will be original art as well as editioned work which will be available to purchase. There will also be a programme of artists' talks and other events throughout the 6 week run of the visual arts programme

Performance

There will be a mix of poetry and song performances staged over the first weekend of the festival including 'folk-noir balladeer' **Rachel Sermanni** presented by Nothing Ever Happens Here...; acclaimed artist **David Mach** discusses merging collage and poetry; **Andy Cannon and Wendy Weatherby** present Oor Rabbie - an introduction to Burns for anyone aged 7+; Flint & Pitch present A Flyting which sees five contemporary poets respond to a Burns poem of their choosing, featuring **Liz Lochhead, Billy Letford, Harry Giles, Iona Lee** and **Andrew Blair**; **NEU! REEKIE!** presents BURNS ERUPTION - an eclectic combination of musicians, poets, haggis and whisky.

Whisky

Event sponsors Isle of Arran Distillers will be hosting four masterclasses on Burns's favourite tippie and attendees will be talked through the five whiskies from their range. Isle of Arran Distillers is the only Scotch Whisky distillery to produce a Single Malt and Blended Whisky officially endorsed by the World Burns Federation.

Full details of all these events and tickets at www.burnsunbroke.co.uk

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An advisory panel has been appointed for *Burns Unbroke*: Gerry Carruthers (Francis Hutcheson Professor of Scottish Literature, University of Glasgow), Calum Colvin (Professor of Contemporary Art Practice, Dundee University), Pete Irvine (Founder of Unique Events) and Emma Nicolson (Director, Atlas Arts).

Burns Unbroke will take place at Summerhall where the visual art will be on display in 11 galleries for six weeks, from 25 January – 10 March 2018, with the majority of performance events focussed around the weekend of 26-28 January. The exhibitions will be open to the public, Tuesdays to Sundays, throughout the six weeks and entry is free.

Burns Unbroke is a partnership between Sheilagh Tennant of artruist and Summerhall, Edinburgh's most exciting new centre for visual and performing arts, best known for its innovative Fringe programmes.

The prime aims of *Burns Unbroke* will be to highlight the continuing relevance of Burns's words and the remarkable extent of his influence as well as attracting/inspiring new, younger audiences.

Sheilagh Tennant, *Burns Unbroke* Director, says “*Burns Unbroke provides the opportunity, for the first time, to bring together such an impressive range of visual and performance artists under one banner.*”

Robert McDowell, Director of Summerhall says “*You know you are dealing with a great artist when he is taxing you over two centuries after he died and will continue to tax us for centuries to come.*”

Sarah MacIntyre, Visual Arts Officer at Creative Scotland says: “*This new interdisciplinary festival exploring Robert Burns’s enduring influence and legacy will bring together an eclectic range of artists offering audiences contemporary responses to the poet’s life and writing.*”

Dr Alasdair Allan, Minister for International Development and Europe, says: “*Burns Night is undoubtedly one of Scotland’s most well-known and best loved national days, celebrated by millions around the world. Burns is one of our favourite icons and he encapsulates the very essence of being Scottish – creativity, pride and confidence. Each new year millions of people from all corners of the world join hands and come together to sing ‘Auld Lang Syne’ together, perhaps Burns’s best known contribution.*”

“*Every year on January 25th, the day of his birth, Scots, and Scots at heart remember the life and cultural legacy of Burns by hosting a Burns Supper. Glasses of whisky are raised in toast and haggis is addressed like no other food, it is a wonderful opportunity to come together in celebration.*”

James MacTaggart Master Distiller at Isle of Arran Distillers, says “*At the Isle of Arran Distillery in Ayrshire, our Robert Burns Single Malt is the only whisky endorsed by the World Robert Burns Federation and it’s the perfect choice for raising a birthday toast to Scotland’s most beloved poet. This is a sweet and creamy malt with flavours of honey and toffee-glazed pecans. Easy to drink, full of fresh citrus notes, its mellow character makes it ideal for cocktails, enjoyed by itself over ice or with a drop of water. We are delighted to bring our whisky to Burns Unbroke to provide a full sensory experience for visitors.*”

Burns Unbroke is supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland’s Open Project Fund. Further funding is supplied by Scotland’s Winter Festivals event fund and sponsorship from Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd.



LISTINGS DETAILS

Event: Burns Unbroke

Venue: Summerhall, Summerhall Place, Edinburgh EH9 1PL

Dates: 25 January – 10 March 2018
Times: 11am-6pm Free Entry Tuesday – Sunday (closed Monday)
Events: Prices and times at website
Website: www.burnsunbroke.co.uk

For further information contact:
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*The Simple Bard, unbroke by rules of art.
He pours the wild effusions of the heart:
And if inspir'd 'tis Nature's pow'rs inspire;
Her's all the melting thrill, and her's the kindling fire.*

About Creative Scotland

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com Follow us @creativescots and www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland

NOTES TO EDITORS:

Burns Night

1. Burns, our national bard, is one of Scotland's favourite icons encapsulating the very essence that makes Scots Scottish – creative, proud and confident.
2. Robert Burns, or 'Rabbie' as he is affectionately known, was born in Alloway, South Ayrshire, in 1759. He began writing poetry and songs at an early age and became famous across Scotland for his writings.
3. After his death at the age of just 37, Rabbie's works became internationally renowned and to this day, people from all corners of the world sing 'Auld Lang Syne' to bring in the New Year.
4. Every year Scots and Scots are heart from across the global celebrate Burns' birthday, 25th January, to end the Winter Festival period. This national day has always been steeped in tradition and valued as a natural way of feeling truly Scottish by celebrating Burns' life and cultural legacy by coming together with friends or family and partake in a Burns Supper.
5. A Burns Supper is often an engaging spectacle. The haggis is traditionally piped in to dinner and then specifically addressed in poetry. Further poems including 'A Toast to the Lassies' are exchanged by dinner guests with accompanying drams of whisky, however there are many modern variations and

twists on these traditions that befits Scotland, a country that champions fairness, equality and inclusivity.

6. Learn more about Robert Burns himself and how to hold your own modern Burns Supper as well as the meaning behind some of his most famous words and phrases by visiting scotland.org/burns.

7. The Scotland's Winter Festivals event fund is managed by EventScotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.