

PRESS VIEW: 11.30 am – 1.00 pm, 8 June 2011



Albrecht Dürer, *Saint Jerome in His Study*, 1514, National Gallery of Scotland

DÜRER'S FAME

9 June – 11 October 2011

NATIONAL GALLERY COMPLEX, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL

Telephone 0131 624 6200

www.nationalgalleries.org

Admission free

This summer the National Gallery of Scotland will present a unique display that will examine the work of the 16th century German artist Albrecht Dürer and his enduring influence, spanning five centuries. *Dürer's Fame* will showcase a selection of his magnificent prints from the Galleries' collection, together with contemporary and later copies of his work. These objects will be augmented by a selection of illicit imitations and surprising tributes, including a 21st century tattoo.

Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528) was the most important artist of the Northern Renaissance and is one of the most celebrated artists of all time. He excelled as a painter and draughtsman, but it was his skill as a printmaker that spread his fame across Europe. The printmaking process allowed for multiple copies of his work to be produced which could easily be sold and distributed. This accessibility, combined with his technical brilliance and highly individual style, made him a much admired and imitated artist.

The display will include many of Dürer's famous prints, most of which have not been shown in Edinburgh since 1971, like his iconic *Melancholy*, *Saint Jerome in his Study* and *Knight, Death and the Devil*. To demonstrate the extent of his impact, *Dürer's Fame* will also display famous examples by Italian and Netherlandish artists

alongside the original works. This will include Marcantonio Raimondi's *The Circumcision of Christ* (from *The Life of the Virgin*) and Johan Wierix's *Melencolia* of 1602.

In addition this exhibition will include works by the Scottish artists John Runciman (1744-1768/69) and William Bell Scott (1811-1890), whose response to Dürer's art is less well known. John Runciman's painting, *Christ taking leave of his Mother*, was inspired by Dürer's woodcut of the same subject. Whilst Scott's painting, of 1854, imagines Dürer seeking inspiration on the balcony of his house in Nuremberg, highlighting his romanticized reputation in the 19th century.

The display will conclude by considering Dürer's continuing relevance in the 21st century. An example of work from an installation which filled a Nuremberg square with 7,000 plastic hares in 2003, and a poster of German handball star Pascal Hens sporting a tattoo based on Dürer's *Study of Praying Hands* will demonstrate the artist's enduring influence today.

For further information and images, please call the Press Office on 0131 624 6247/ 325/ 332/ 314

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www.nationalgalleries.org

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Notes to editors

Dürer's Fame will be accompanied by a publication which has been made possible by a private donor and is kindly supported by the German Consulate General, Edinburgh. This hardback is priced at £9.95.