

**PHOTOCALL: 11.30am, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May**  
**NATIONAL GALLERY COMPLEX, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL**



Sir James Guthrie  
*Women Working in a Field, 1888*  
National Gallery of Scotland

## **THE GLASGOW BOYS: DRAWING INSPIRATION**

**29 May – 5 September 2010**

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

Telephone 0131 624 6200

[www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)

*Admission free*

This summer the National Gallery of Scotland presents an intimate exhibition which looks at the early careers of a small, loose-knit group of artists associated with new developments in painting in Glasgow at the end of the nineteenth century. *The Glasgow Boys: Drawing Inspiration* will consist of over 30 watercolours, drawings and sketches, which will provide an insight into the group's working methods. These are to be shown alongside works by major European artists who inspired them. *The Glasgow Boys: Drawing Inspiration* has been scheduled to complement and coincide with the landmark exhibition *Pioneering Painters: The Glasgow Boys 1880–1900* currently on show at Kelvingrove Art Gallery in Glasgow.

The majority of this group came from Glasgow and the west of Scotland, but some, most notably Arthur Melville (1855 – 1904), were from the east. The artists sought a new, fresher style away from the dark genre and history painting favoured by the Scottish Academicians of that time, whom they dubbed “The Gluepots”. Instead, they chose to paint in a simpler, more naturalistic style, producing an array of vibrant images which captured a vanishing way of life in rural and urban Scotland.

Influences from Europe played a prominent role in shaping the Glasgow Boys' style. They were fascinated by recent trends and innovations in European landscape painting, especially in the works of the Barbizon School in France and The Hague School in the Netherlands, both renowned for their atmospheric depictions of rural life and landscapes. Drawings by Anton Mauve and Jean-François Millet will reveal how the artists were often inspired by similar subjects. The group all shared a great admiration for James Abbott McNeill Whistler and the show will include two of his most influential early etchings.

Many of the works in this exhibition will be on public display for the first time, including two newly acquired watercolours by Arthur Melville, generously gifted to the National Gallery of Scotland in 2008. Other highlights include two tiny jewel-like watercolour designs for stained glass windows by David Gauld and James Paterson's beautifully atmospheric watercolour *Moniaive*. A selection of Guthrie's sketchbooks and annotated letters and sketches by Guthrie, E. A. Walton and Joseph Crawhall will all offer a personal and often humorous glimpse into the artists' private lives whilst revealing the close friendships amongst the group.

The National Gallery of Scotland has lent some of its finest Glasgow School paintings and drawings to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and is delighted to be able to contribute to a series of events taking place across Scotland in 2010 celebrating the Glasgow Boys' achievements.

ENDS

**For further information and images, please call the National Galleries of Scotland Press Office on  
0131 624 6247/ 325/ 332/ 314**

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