

PHOTOCALL: 11.30am, Thursday 9 September 2010
NATIONAL GALLERY COMPLEX, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL



William McTaggart, *Two Children Paddling*, Dated 1877
National Gallery of Scotland

WILLIAM MCTAGGART (1835 – 1910)

11 September – 19 December 2010

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

Telephone 0131 624 6200

www.nationalgalleries.org

Admission free

This year marks the centenary of the death of William McTaggart, one of Scotland's best-loved artists. The National Gallery of Scotland will celebrate his life and work with a small exhibition featuring over 25 stunning watercolours, small oil paintings and compositional studies as well as a selection of rarely seen personal memorabilia.

William McTaggart has long been regarded as one of the most outstanding and innovative Scottish artists. He was the son of a crofter, born near Aros in Kintyre on the west coast of Scotland and, unlike many of his contemporaries he chose to work almost exclusively in Scotland. His native land was a constant source of inspiration and provided him with a wealth of subject matter - everyday scenes of fishing communities, breathtaking views of the ocean and sheltered bays along the Scottish coast all feature heavily in his work. His pictures have a strong emotional content linking people with nature, such as children playing in the surf, fishermen battling with storms or emigrants setting sail for America.

Highlights of the exhibition include studies for some of McTaggart's best known oil paintings such as a delicate pencil study for *Spring* and an

atmospheric study in watercolour for *Dawn at Sea. Homewards*. There will also be a selection of rarely seen personal memorabilia including the artist's paint palette, brushes, sketchbooks and Royal Scottish Academy medals. Touching photography from the McTaggart family album will also be on display depicting his true inspiration – his family and surroundings.

The exhibition will be complemented by a small display which will examine McTaggart's early artistic training at Edinburgh College of Art and features rare studies made by McTaggart when he was a young student.

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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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