



Fraser Gray © the artist

ROUGH CUT NATION

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, 1 Queen St, Edinburgh, EH2 1JD

Telephone 0131 6246 6200

7th – 30th August

12 noon – 8pm Thurs- Sat, 12 noon – 5pm Sun, Tues, Wed, closed Mon

www.roughcutnation.co.uk

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery will be given a radical makeover this summer, when a group of young Scottish artists come together for *Rough Cut Nation*, a unique, collaborative project that will temporarily transform the Gallery's interior. Currently closed for a major refurbishment, the building will re-open for three weeks in August, to showcase a dramatically remixed version of Scottish history that will be painted, pasted and projected directly onto the Gallery's walls.

Artists involved in *Rough Cut Nation* will take as their starting point Sir William Hole's original decorative mural scheme, which fills the entrance hall with figures and events from Scotland's past. They will use the full armory of street-art techniques, including spray paint, stencils, stickers, emulsion, rollers, brushes, pens, digital projections and fly-posters to create a temporary, multilayered, wall-based installation in the now empty Gallery space.

This dynamic collaboration will feature artwork and designs from Elph, Fraser Gray, Kirsty Whiten, Mike Inglis, Peter Martin, Jason Nelson, DUFU, Machism, Paco, Jo Basford, Janie Nicoll and Skint. A series of *Rough Cut Nation* events investigating the exhibition's themes of national identity, portraiture and storytelling will precede the exhibition. These will be undertaken by the artists in conjunction with youth and community groups from Dundee Contemporary Arts, McManus Galleries (Dundee), Out of the Blue (Leith), Fairbridge (Edinburgh) and WHALE Arts Agency (Wester Hailes). Images and ideas from these off-site events will be fed into the main installation.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of events and activities in which members of the public can get involved. The public will be invited to contribute their own portraits, drawings and ideas to the installation as facilitated by the artists through a series of drop-in workshops. Every Saturday throughout the exhibition Avalanche Records will host live music events with up-and-coming bands from around the country and abroad. Acts confirmed so far include *Tut Vu Vu* and *The John Knox Sex Club*. A full line up of events and activities will be announced in July.

Follow the Rough Cut Nation online with videos, pictures and blogs at www.roughcutnation.co.uk

For further information please contact the National Galleries of Scotland's press office on 0131 624 6325/6247/6314/6332 or pressinfo@nationalgalleries.org.

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