



Still from *Silver City Soul* (2012) © Adam Proctor, National Galleries of Scotland and Aberdeen City Council

Art Gallery presents a portrait of Aberdeen created by local communities as part of an innovative art project.

Silver City Soul

10 February – 24 March 2012 Aberdeen Art Gallery

Admission Free

From 10 February two films by Adam Proctor will be on display alongside a series of photos by Aberdeen residents, stretching the full length of the Gallery's Studio Space. The project, which is a partnership between National Galleries of Scotland and Aberdeen City Council, presents a portrait of the city based on its characters, communities and landscapes.

Silver City Soul explores the vital role that images play in shaping the contemporary perceptions of a city, its inhabitants, and their creative potential. The exhibition features portraits of individuals and communities who were invited to submit images of their city and its surroundings to *Silver City Soul* online.

The National Galleries of Scotland outreach team worked with local video artist Adam Proctor to create films that explore the faces and places that make Aberdeen distinctive. Adam has been supported by a core group of active participants in exploring the living heart of the city. His two films, projected onto the gallery walls, present a changing city reflected in the faces of its inhabitant and by the locations chosen by the group to represent their city.

Robin Baillie, National Galleries of Scotland Senior Outreach Officer said:

"We're very excited about enabling Aberdonians to re-envisage their city by collaborating to create these video portraits. This exemplifies the National Galleries of Scotland's belief in the power of portraits and our commitment to help represent the people and the regions of Scotland as part of the educational programme of the new Scottish National

Portrait Gallery. We're helping to put a face to the place and showing the creative power of the people of Aberdeen."

Aberdeen City Council's Acting Community Arts Manager for Arts Development Elspeth Winram, said:

"Silver City Soul has been a fantastic opportunity for groups in Aberdeen and Arts Development to link with National Galleries of Scotland through a Vibrant Aberdeen Cultural Grant.

"Local people involved in creating video portraits have linked up with National Collections and have in their words 'learned new creative skills' through the NGS educational programme. It has been brilliant to be part of this innovative project and represent Aberdeen on a national platform."

Notes to editors:

- The National Galleries of Scotland's nationwide education programme complementing the major refurbishment of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, which reopened in December 2011, is called *Portrait of the Nation: Live!*

- Adam Proctor's previous work can be viewed at www.fortsunlight.co.uk

- visit www.silvercitysoul.me where there is more information about the project.