



VIBRANT
ABERDEEN



**SILVER CITY SOUL:
A VIDEO PORTRAIT OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN**
A National Galleries of Scotland Outreach Project and Exhibition
THE NATIONAL GALLERY COMPLEX ,THE MOUND, EDINBURGH, EH2 2EL
28 April - 6 June 2011

Silver City Soul will present an innovative portrait project that searches for the soul of one of Scotland's most historic cities. Working in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, the National Galleries of Scotland's Outreach team has joined with the people of Aberdeen to create a collective portrait which will explore the city's past, present and future. The resulting video and photographic work will go on display this spring at the National Gallery Complex.

The exhibition will include powerful video footage, created by artist Adam Proctor, which will be shown alongside a set of striking portrait photographs. These photographs are arranged to form a montage which stretches the full length of the gallery. Inspired by the figurative paintings of 19th-century Aberdonian artists William Dyce and John Phillip (from the National Collection and Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum Collections), the people of Aberdeen have been invited to represent themselves and their city as part of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery's *Portrait of the Nation: Live!* Project. The project

uses portraiture to create a dialogue between the individual and the community, and between the city and the nation.

Video-artist Adam Proctor has created a film that exploits the camera's ability to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary. Its gaze lingers on 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 film, projected onto the Gallery's end wall, presents a powerful image of a changing city reflected in the faces of its inhabitants.

Robin Baillie, National Galleries of Scotland Senior Outreach Officer, said, "We're very excited about presenting Aberdeen to the nation through our video portrait of its people. This exemplifies the National Galleries of Scotland's belief in the power of portraits and our commitment to representing the cities and regions of Scotland in the new Scottish National Portrait Gallery. We're helping to put a face to the place and showing the creative potential of the people of Aberdeen. The portrait can help keep a human image at the centre of a changing world."

The project, part of the Vibrant Aberdeen Cultural Strategy, continues in Aberdeen until the end of the year, The project is continuing to develop and build on its success. It will be supported by the NGS, Arts Development team and the Common Good fund, culminating in an exhibition at Aberdeen Art Gallery from 11 February until 24 March 2012.

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

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Notes to editors:

- *Silver City Soul* is a partnership between the Arts Development and Museums and Galleries service of Aberdeen City Council and the National Galleries of Scotland.
- *Portrait of the Nation: Live!* is the National Galleries of Scotland's nationwide Education programme complementing the major refurbishment of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, due to reopen in November 2011

- 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.
- Aberdeen residents are also invited to send us in their portraits as digital stills and films by visiting the website www.silvercitysoul.me

Image Credits for Banner:

Top: *Aberdeen Skyline*, Adam Proctor, 2010

Centre, left to right: John Phillip, *A Scotch Fair*, 1848, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums Collections; John Phillip, *'La Gloria': A Spanish Wake*, 1864, National Galleries of Scotland; William Dyce, *The Highland Ferryman*, 1857, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums Collections; William Dyce, *Man of Sorrows*, 1860, National Galleries of Scotland, purchased with the aid of the Heritage Purchase Grant (Scotland) 1981

Bottom: *Silver City Soul Portraits*, National Galleries of Scotland and Aberdeen City Council, 2011

The National Galleries of Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland (No. SC003728).