

Press Release | 11 March 2022

***Scottish Women Artists* serves as a 'curatorial corrective' for the historic absence of women artists in academic narratives and artistic institutions**



Agnes Miller Parker, *The Uncivilised Cat*, 1930. The Fleming Collection. © The Estate of the Artist.
Image courtesy The Fine Art Society. Photography by John McKenzie.

**Scottish Women Artists
Transforming Tradition**

Developed in partnership with the Fleming Collection
9 April – 3 July 2022

High-resolution image available for download: <https://bit.ly/3MEyjtd>

Scottish Women Artists Transforming Tradition brings together exciting historical, modern and contemporary works from the Fleming Collection that span over one hundred years of social transformation, innovation and individualism. Mid-twentieth century greats, such as Joan Eardley, Margot Sandeman and Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, are displayed alongside their peers, artistic forbears and those they inspired, to communicate the dynamic tensions and creative synergies that have influenced successive generations of Scottish artists.

This exhibition presents fifty engaging works, which address a wide and eclectic range of themes. *Scottish Women Artists* focuses on paintings, drawings, assemblages and photography that explore human relationships, encounters with places, structural forms and recognisable objects. In this way, traditional genres such as the still life, landscape and portraiture are reinvigorated by the artists' imaginative treatment of familiar subject matter.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, the radical new co-educational programmes offered by Scottish institutions presented women with the opportunity to develop as

professional artists. After training in Scotland many artists forged their own distinct paths, drawing strength and support from the life-long friendships that they formed at art school or within the artist colonies of Kirkcudbright in Dumfries and Galloway, Catterline in Aberdeenshire, and further afield in St Ives, Cornwall.

Selected from the Fleming Collection's extensive holdings of Scottish art, and supplemented by further loans, this exhibition celebrates the professional careers of over thirty artists, who have received honours and commendations for the quality of their work and their outstanding contribution to the arts. By foregrounding works by Annie French and Phoebe Anna Traquair to Caroline Walker and Sekai Machache, *Scottish Women Artists* aspires to serve as a 'curatorial corrective' for the historic absence of women artists in academic narratives and artistic institutions due to out-dated gender-based assumptions.

"Since its inception in 1968, the Fleming Collection has been unusual in recognising the importance of women artists to the story of Scottish art, when key works by Joan Eardley, Anne Redpath and other mid-century greats were acquired. This ground-breaking show brings that story up-to-date with the triumph of contemporary artists on the international stage bringing to the fore the continuum of female talent and innovation that has powered Scotland's art."

James Knox, Director of the Fleming Collection

Tickets will be available to buy online from 23 March 2022 at sainsburycentre.ac.uk, £9/£8 concessions. Free parking subject to availability, two cafes, shop.

– ENDS –

Notes to Editors

Exhibition supported by:

The Fleming-Wyfold Art Foundation

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Exhibition Information

Scottish Women Artists

Transforming Tradition

9 April – 3 July 2022

Tickets £9/£8 concessions

Visit sainsburycentre.ac.uk or call 01603 593199 (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm)

Follow @sainsburycentre and @fleming_collection on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
#ScottishWomenArtists

About the Fleming Collection:

The Fleming-Wyfold Art Foundation owes its existence to the formation of the finest collection of Scottish art outside public institutions, comprising over 600 works from the seventeenth century to the present day. The Collection dates back to 1968 when investment

bank Robert Fleming & Co, began to acquire Scottish art to hang in its offices worldwide to reflect its Dundonian roots. Following the sale of the bank in 2000, the Collection was vested in the Foundation. Today, the Fleming-Wyfold Art Foundation is endowed to care and enhance the Collection and to promote an understanding and awareness of Scottish art and creativity through a programme of cultural diplomacy, touring exhibitions, individual loans, events, publishing and education.

The Fleming Collection has consistently acquired outstanding work by women, beginning with a number of paintings by Joan Eardley in the very first year of the Collection. Since then, Scottish women have held a key place in the Collection's acquisition strategy. As well as Eardley, the Collection includes works by the Glasgow School's Annie French and Katherine Cameron; the Edinburgh Group friends Dorothy Johnson and Cecile Walton; modern masters Anne Redpath and Elizabeth Blackadder; and contemporaries such as Sekai Machache and Caroline Walker. Works by these artists will be on view at the Sainsbury Centre.

About the Sainsbury Centre

The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts is one of the most important public university art galleries in Britain. It was founded in 1973 at the University of East Anglia (UEA) with the support of one of the nation's great philanthropic families, Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury, who donated their extraordinary art collection which includes works dating from prehistory to the late 20th century from across the globe. A radical new building by Norman Foster was designed to house the collection and was his first public work.

The Sainsbury Centre holds one of the most impressive art collections outside of the national institutions. It includes a significant number of works by modern masters of European art such as Pablo Picasso, Edgar Degas, Elisabeth Frink, Alberto Giacometti, Henry Moore, Sonia Delaunay, Tess Jaray, Francis Bacon, Cornelia Parker, Jean Arp, Mary Martin, Rachel Kneebone and Amedeo Modigliani. There are major holdings from Oceania, Africa, the Americas, Asia, the ancient Mediterranean cultures of Egypt, Greece and Rome, as well as Medieval Europe. Alongside these permanent collections, it hosts a range of exhibitions in the largest suite of temporary exhibitions galleries in Eastern England.

sainsburycentre.ac.uk