

edinburgh people's festival

www.edinburghpeoplesfestival.org.uk

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

People's Festival Launches £1,000 Visual Arts Competition

RICHARD DEMARCO TO JUDGE ENTRIES

The Edinburgh People's Festival [EPF] today announced that its 2008 programme in August will include a visual arts competition with £1,000 in prize money on offer.

Artists across Scotland are invited to submit wall mounted work on the theme 'People Like Us'. Entries will be exhibited at the North Edinburgh Arts Centre in August as part of the 2008 People's Festival. The competition will run in tandem with a retrospective history of the People's Festival spanning the last half century.

EPF Chairman Colin Fox believes there are many talented artists in Scotland who don't get sufficient opportunity to show their work. 'We offer artists working in Scotland today the chance to show what they can do, this philosophy of inclusion is central to what the Edinburgh People's Festival is all about. Local artists Lisa Arnott and Mark I'anson are the driving forces behind this venture. They will ensure that all entries are professionally displayed to maximise their impact. The irrepressible Richard Demarco will judge the entrants and award the prizes.'

Mark I'anson believes the competition is radically different from others he has been involved in and has the potential to produce 'innovative and exciting' work. 'A lot of good art gets produced in Scotland but it doesn't get shown because it doesn't fit neatly into either of the two current fashions of traditional conservative painting on the one hand or conceptual art on the other. Artists working in the middle focusing on social comment or even political issues tend to get ignored. This competition offers a unique opportunity to those who have something interesting to say to, and about, 'People Like Us'.

Entry forms are available from the People's Festival website www.edinburghpeoplesfestival.org.uk
The 2008 Edinburgh People's Festival runs from August 9th to 16th. The full programme will be announced in the next couple of weeks.

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