

Self-Reliance (1841)

An exhibition featuring work-in-progress by Alicia Bruce, Malcy Duff & Johnny Gailey
Out of the Blue Drill Hall, Edinburgh
Dates: 2 August – 31 August 2012

Curated by Long Distance Information

The exhibition takes its title from a Ralph Waldo Emerson essay, first published in 1841, in which the author advises the reader to foster the attributes of self-reliance.

There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better, for worse, as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till. The power which resides in him is new in nature, and none but he knows what that is which he can do, nor does he know until he has tried...

Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string. Accept the place the divine providence has found for you, the society of your contemporaries, the connection of events. Great men have always done so, and confided themselves childlike to the genius of their age, betraying their perception that the absolutely trustworthy was seated at their heart, working through their hands, predominating in all their being...

...Nothing can bring you peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles.

Full text available here: <http://www.emersoncentral.com/selfreliance.htm>

An A5 pamphlet of the original text will be produced and available for visitors to the exhibition to purchase via an honesty box. The pamphlet will feature the original text reading from one end, and when it is flipped, with a updated version with the patriarchal language stripped out, and replaced with more neutral language suitable to the 21st century – a kind of feminist reclamation.

The three photographers/artists are each exhibiting a body of work in progress, in which various aspects of self-reliance come into play. The exhibition itself will be created from reclaimed wood and funded through crowd funding – self-reliance in action.

Alicia Bruce

Alicia will use this exhibition as a test space for showing work in progress. Images documenting the landscape of Menie, an area of outstanding natural beauty on the Aberdeenshire coast. The landscape and the locals have gained International attention as the area is 'Trumped' over to create what is claimed to be 'The World's greatest golf course'. Menie was previously renowned for its dynamic dune system which was noted to be "Scotland's equivalent of the Amazon Rain Forrest' The area has now lost its accreditation as an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). It has become an area of conflict. The locals have fought back. The Trump organization have offended the First Minister. Will nature fight back too?



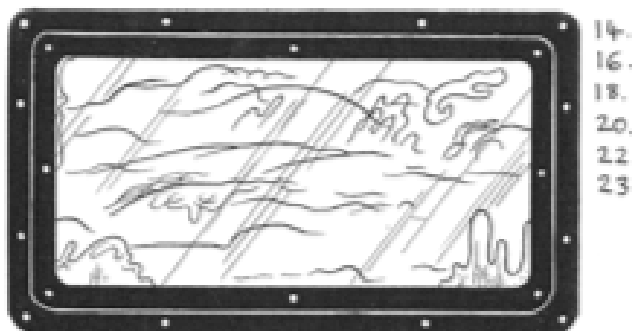
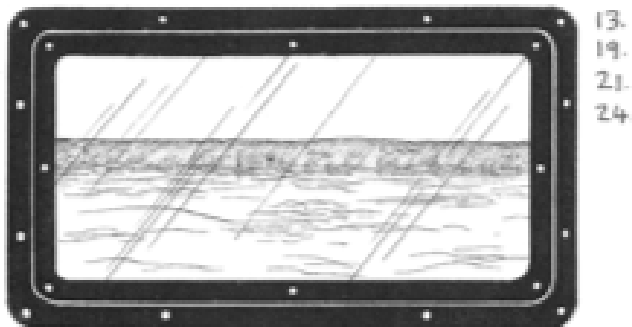
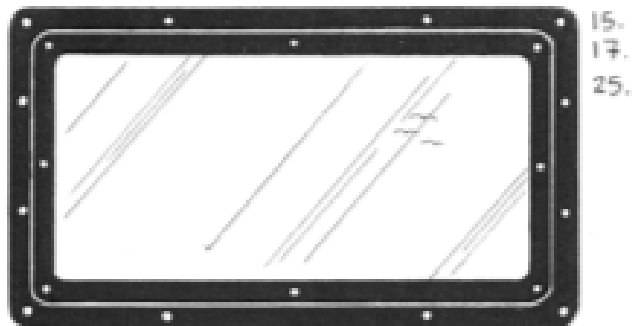
*'Mike and Sheila Forbes: Mill of Menie' from series Menie: A portrait of a North East community in conflict
National Galleries of Scotland Photography Collection*

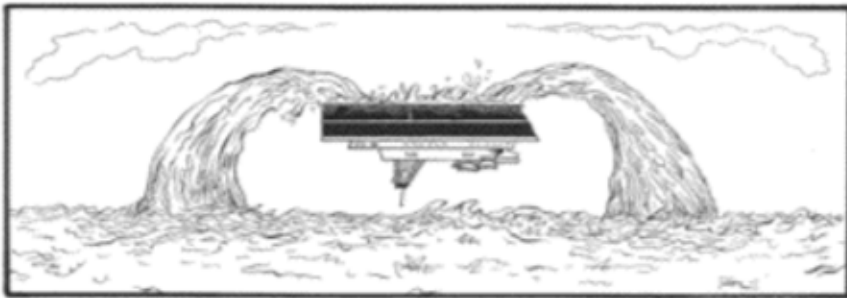


Landscapes from series: "Please Don't Pretend To Care About My Country's Scenery in Order To Make Yourself Even Richer"

Malcy Duff

Malcy has recently completed a comic book called '*The Cross Stands On One Leg Because It Only Has One Leg.*' – a story about a man traveling to a remote Scottish island to fix a delapidated Celtic cross. The narrative flits between the subjective and objective, as the man considers his task within the wider context of his life work. For this exhibition Malcy will create an impossible concrete overhang on which to exhibit the comic.





Excerpts from *'The Cross Stands On One Leg Because It Only Has One Leg.'*

Johnny Gailey

Johnny will create a large-scale diorama entitled Archipelago, consisting on prints of the Southern night sky, printed from plate glass negatives in addition to a slideshow of a recent series, entitled “Monument to the Shipwrecked”.



Excerpt from the series “Monument to the Shipwrecked”.



Excerpt from the series “Monument to the Shipwrecked”.



Slide projector display unit

Biographies:

Alicia Bruce is an award winning Scottish photographer. Her practice is focused on social and political themes and issues within communities. Her collaboration with the residents of Menie, a rural Scottish community standing up against Donald Trump's threats of Compulsory Purchase Order, has gained international attention for giving a fair voice to the residents. Their collaborative portraits gained positive International press for the locals in early 2011 who, until then, had been portrayed by certain media as 'peasants', 'pigs', 'protesters' & 'opponents'. Two portraits from this series are now held in The National Galleries of Scotland's permanent collection securing the Menie residents place and right to fair representation in our National conscience.

Alicia has shown her work widely across the UK, with shows at Peacock Visual Arts, Aberdeen, Moray Art Centre, Findhorn, The Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh, Foto8 Gallery, London & Diemar-Noble Gallery, London. In 2011 she was Photographer in Residence at Blaenavon World Heritage Site in SouthWales commissioned by Ffotogallery. The photographs from this residency will be exhibited Cardiff International Photography Festival in May 2013.

Alicia's teaching portfolio include courses, workshops and lectures for a range of organisations including University of Aberdeen, Edinburgh College of Art, Stevenson College and Street Level Photoworks,

<http://www.aliciabruce.co.uk/>

Malcy Duff (b.1978) is a cartoonist from Edinburgh, Scotland. His work includes 'The Weather and The Weather Forecast,' 'The Blackest Gnome,' 'The Heroic Mosh of Mary's Son, and ' the "Rrobots anthology.' He has exhibited all over Britain, and in Ireland, Finland, Israel and Australia. In 2007 he was awarded a Donald Dewar Arts Award for outstanding work in the comic book form. In 2003 he co-founded Usurper with Ali Robertson. They have toured throughout Britain, Europe and America. Duff continues to collaborate with Robertson, and contributes artwork for posters and album sleeves, including a cover and comic book set for their recent LP on Rel Records. He also performs solo, with a mixture of readings from his comic books and 'live' comix. These include past shows on the east coast of America, and at his recent solo show 'Diluting Orange' in Edinburgh.

<http://www.missingtwinnews.blogspot.co.uk/>

Johnny Gailey is a freelance arts worker, photographer, educator, artist, writer, gardener and organizer based in Edinburgh. He has worked in community arts and gallery education in Scotland since 2000 across a range of organizations from An Tuireann on the Isle of Skye to The Fruitmarket Gallery in Edinburgh.

Johnny's photographic practice is based on personal narratives, defunct technologies and is often presented sculpturally. He has shown his work in Aberdeen, Belfast, Edinburgh and Fife. Johnny has written for publications and contributed to national debates and sectoral development via advisory work, recently presenting at international conferences in Margate, Dublin and Helsinki. He is a member of the engage Scotland Development Group, and sits on the Glasgow Sculpture Studios' Programme Advisory Group.

Currently, his time is divided between

- The studio: developing projects, researching and writing;
- The darkroom, printing an exhibition of photography and
- Across the country: working with a range of partners on participation in the arts.

<http://cargocollective.com/johnnygailey>