

PRESS RELEASE

NEW HANNAH FRANK BOOK AND DVD LAUNCH IN TIME FOR ARTIST'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Exciting new sources of information relating to the life of the iconic Scottish Jewish artist, Hannah Frank, will be launched in time for her 100th birthday.

A new book and a new DVD film will be launched at the private view of the Hannah Frank Centenary Exhibition at Glasgow University Chapel on Friday 22 August, the day before Hannah Frank's 100th birthday.

The book, 'Hannah Frank: Footsteps on the Sands of Time - A Hundredth Birthday Gallimaufry', edited by Fiona Frank, the artist's niece and champion, and writer Judith Coyle, is published by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre in association with Kennedy & Boyd.

Gavin Wallace, Head of Literature at the Scottish Arts Council, the body that part-funded the project, said:

"The dark and beautiful heart of Glasgow sang out from every work in Hannah Frank's portfolio. We are delighted to be able to support and celebrate such an important, and perhaps overlooked, artist."

The Gallimaufry with a foreword by David Glasser, chairman of the Ben Uri Gallery at the London Jewish Museum of Art, brings together writings on Hannah Frank's life and art by well-respected writers such as art critic Moira Jeffrey, Lesley Richmond, Head of Glasgow University Archives, and by Fiona Frank herself, who spearheaded the current five year international tour of her aunt's work.

A special Schools Edition of the book is also available. This features an additional 20 page Teachers' Pack compiled by artist Ann-Marie Foster, MA, for the primary and secondary art curriculum which contains full supporting materials, all photocopiable for teaching purposes.

Ann-Marie said:

"I feel really honoured that my teacher's pack has been included in this informative and thoughtfully written account of Hannah's life and art. The book provides a rich insight into the contextual fabric of her art practice, the importance of her Jewish heritage and how that was expressed in a singularly Scottish context. The research into the literary influences that shaped Hannah's artistic responses is exceptional and illuminating. This book is also a very human document dipping into the mind of the young Hannah, revealing her thoughts on irritating siblings as well as her steely determination to become an artist. The charting of the difficulties and pain of rejection which Hannah faced in her struggle to find an outlet and an audience for her work is something all artists will identify with."

A film about Hannah's art, life and inspiration by London-based visual anthropologist, Sarah Thomas, will be launched at the same time.

'Hannah Frank – The Spark Divine', takes its title from a compliment the artist noted in her diary on Wednesday 10 July 1929:

"A letter from Sidney Needoff ...thanking me for the poems which would surely feature in the first issue - I had the spark divine".

The film, which Sarah has created over the course of this year, was made possible by a grant from the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University, Boston, US, where Hannah's work was exhibited in 2007. Reflecting the whole family's involvement in the celebration of Hannah's work, it features two of Hannah's young great-nieces.

Jen Rankin, 26, from Preston, Lancashire, is a trainee teacher, (as was Hannah herself in the 1930s). Jen has an uncanny resemblance to the young Hannah and plays the part of her great-aunt in the film, sketching and walking by the sea in Ayrshire where the Frank family would go for the summers. Barbara Spevack, 30, an actress and singer from Newton Mearns, Glasgow, provides the voice-over for the young Hannah reading her diaries out loud.

Film maker Sarah Thomas spent much of her life in Kenya. She is a Master's graduate in Visual Anthropology (University of Manchester) and is currently working on a project about migration and visual culture at Tate Britain. Another of her short films, shot among the Samburu of Northern Kenya, is now touring the international short film festival circuit.

Sarah said:

'The way my involvement with this film came about is remarkable: a serendipitous meeting of needs on a Lancaster based cyber notice board – storage space in exchange for a film! Over the past two years Fiona Frank and I have developed a very rewarding working relationship and it has been an exciting project to be a part of, not least because one feels one is about to reveal a precious little secret to the world. I could not have made this film if I had not been deeply moved by Hannah's artwork, and I hope through all the material surrounding the centenary celebration others will be too.'

- *Hannah Frank Centenary Exhibition, 23 August - 11 October 2008, Glasgow University Chapel, Glasgow.
Tel: 0141 330 5419. Monday-Friday 9-5. Saturdays 23 August and 11 October, 9-11 a.m.*

Notes for Editors:

- Press Preview for DVD and Book launch Friday 22 August Glasgow University Chapel, 5 pm - 6.30 pm.

Press Contacts and high resolution images of all titles mentioned above and high quality recent photos of Hannah Frank available.

Fiona Frank
3 Dalton Road, Lancaster LA1 3PR
Tel: 07778 737681 (between 9 July and 13 August this number goes to Judith Coyle).
Email: fionafrank@soundboard.f9.co.uk
Website: www.hannahfrank.org.uk

Judith Coyle, PR for Hannah Frank Art.
Tel: 01524 60383. M: 07845 499 343
Email: judith@judithcoyle.co.uk

Ray McHugh, Senior Media Relations Officer, University of Glasgow.
Tel: 0141 330 3535
Email: r.mchugh@admin.gla.ac.uk