

HANNAH FRANK: A GLASGOW ARTIST

PRESS RELEASE

SPRING EXHIBITION BRINGS ICONIC ART TO CITY

For immediate use

A MAJOR new exhibition and multimedia event at Lancaster City Museum and Art Gallery this Spring sees the fruition of a Lancaster woman's mission to bring the work of her aunt, the iconic twentieth century Glasgow artist, Hannah Frank, to a wider audience.

Fiona Frank has worked closely with museum staff on the 'Hannah Frank, A Glasgow Artist' Exhibition, which runs from 24 April to 5 June.

On show will be many of Hannah Frank's original drawings – some seen in public for the first time – as well as a selection of her sculptures and prints. Visitors will be able to view pages from Hannah's personal albums and diaries and can access the Hannah Frank website, while both budding and experienced sculptors can attend the sculpture workshops on offer.

An exhibition on Jewish immigration to Glasgow, organised by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, will run in conjunction with the main event. Hannah's father, Charles Frank, an optician and mechanic originally from Lithuania, settled in Glasgow in the early 1900s, and founded a camera business in Saltmarket in the city.

Hannah's distinctive drawing style - black and white haunting images, many featuring stars and moons, wraith-like figures and elongated shapes – has led to comparisons with Margaret and Frances Macdonald, Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Aubrey Beardsley. Hannah's work has been exhibited at the Royal Academy, the Royal Scottish Academy and The Hunterian among others.

Fiona grew up surrounded by Hannah's works because her GP father, Hannah's brother, displayed them in his surgery waiting room in Preston. Hannah Frank, now aged 95 and still in good health, lives in a care home in Glasgow, surrounded by her life's work which is much admired by staff, other residents, and visitors to the Home. Fiona, and Susan Ashworth, Collections Manager at Lancaster City Museum, will give talks about Hannah Frank's life and work during the exhibition.

From Lancaster it is planned that the exhibition will travel all over Britain for four years up to Hannah's centenary in 2008. Works will also be on show at Falmouth Art Gallery and in Harrogate this Spring.

Fiona said: "I see my aunt's drawings almost as members of our family. I'm proud to help my aunt to fulfil her wish, which is, in the words of Longfellow, to 'leave footprints on the sands of time.'"

Visitors to the museum will be able to buy cards and prints, including one of a previously unknown original picture, *Fairies in a Wood*, done in 1925 when Hannah was 17, and two others which have been issued especially for this exhibition.

Fiona Frank is also updating a previously sold-out book of her aunt's art work - including illustrations and extracts from her diaries - and visitors to the exhibition will be able to order it at a special price.

***Further details : Hannah Frank, A Glasgow Artist. 24 April – 5 June, Lancaster City Museum and Art Gallery. Open Mon- Sat – 9am-5pm
Tel 01524 64637***

See the website at <http://www.hannahfrank.org.uk>

(Ends)

Press details:

FIRST RATE PICS are available:

- Photographs of Hannah Frank, with her niece, Fiona Frank, surrounded by her work in the Jewish care home .
- Photographs of Hannah's drawings and sculptures. [for example see website <http://www.hannahfrank.org.uk>, other photographs are available]

Interviews:

- Fiona Frank is available for interview. Tel: 07778 737681;
Email: fionafrank@soundboard.f9.co.uk
- Susan Ashworth, Collections Manager at Lancaster City Museum, is available for interview. Tel 01524 64637 email susan.ashworth@mus.lancscc.gov.uk
- The artist, Hannah Frank herself is available for interview and photographs in Newton Mearns, Glasgow: by arrangement with Fiona Frank, see contact details above.
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