

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UNIQUE RECORD OF ARTIST WHO IS LAST LIVING LINK TO GLASGOW**

#### **ART NOUVEAU PERIOD**

A unique permanent record of the work of artist, Hannah Frank, whose life and work is currently being celebrated through a major touring exhibition up to her centenary in 2008, is published on 1 September.

The book, *Hannah Frank: A Glasgow Artist - Drawings and Sculpture*, published by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, has been completely revised and updated by the artist's niece, Lancaster-based Fiona Frank, who has also spearheaded the setting up of the exhibitions.

Born in 1908 to Jewish parents who emigrated from Lithuania, Hannah Frank, 96 in August 2004, is the last living link to the end of the Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts period in Glasgow. She studied at Glasgow University and Glasgow School of Art during the 1920s and 30s, during which time she produced distinctive black and white drawings, then moved on to sculpture in the 1950s which she developed up until the late 1990s. Her drawings and also her later bronzes have featured in exhibitions of the Royal Academy and the Royal Scottish Academy.

Mentored by Benno Schotz, the Queen's Sculptor in Ordinary for Scotland while at the Glasgow School of Art, Hannah Frank was encouraged in her career as a young schoolgirl by John Quinton Pringle, who although a well-known Glasgow artist of the time, never gave up the optician's shop he ran close to Hannah's father's camera shop, Charles Frank Limited, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

Hannah Frank is proud of what her niece is doing in promoting her work. "It's not

every 95 year old artist whose work enjoys a revival after 20 years!" she said.

Hannah now lives in Westacres, a purpose-built Jewish Care Home south of Glasgow, where her work is displayed prominently all around the public areas. It was the fact that she didn't have to dispose of all her drawings and sculptures which helped Hannah and her husband Lionel Levy, who died last year, make the decision in 2002 to leave the house in First Avenue, Netherlee, where they had lived happily for 64 years. But before Westacres made their offer, and when it was thought that the work would have to be disposed of, Hannah's niece Fiona first became interested in finding a new audience for her aunt's work. A small exhibition at Lancaster University, where Fiona worked, led to two more exhibitions in Lancaster, and expressions of interest in the work from galleries all over Britain.

Fiona explained why a new version of the book, originally compiled in 1988 by Hannah's brother, Arthur Frank but now out of print, was needed.

"People today are increasingly drawn to her work and are buying up the prints and cards. The recent exhibition at Lancaster City Museum and Art Gallery attracted a lot of visitors too. Now people want a book recording her life, work and, through the inclusion of extracts from her personal diaries, her thoughts."

Hannah has given permission for the use of her private diary drawings in the new book while 15 'new' drawings which have been discovered over recent years via internet contacts, appeals in local papers, and in old issues of the Glasgow University Magazine, are included. Several of the works included in the book were found in an old suitcase, where they had lain unseen since the 1920s. Photographs of 16 'new' sculptures, never previously published, are revealed, and another first is the public appearance of early

family sketches and self-portraits.

Also featured are some commissioned works for Glasgow Jewish institutions done in the 1930s and 1940s, and early pencil sketches and studies for some of the well-known black and white drawings.

"Because the drawings and sculptures are arranged chronologically the reader gets a real feel for how Hannah developed as an artist," Fiona explained.

Susan Ashworth, collections manager at Lancaster City Art Gallery, and curator of the touring exhibition, writes in her foreword to the new book: "Hannah Frank's work deserves to be seen widely. The powerful black and white compositions contain *such* energy - but it is almost at bursting point. By contrast, her sculptures draw you to them, invite you to touch and stroke them and are imbued with a different, quiet calm."

Harvey Kaplan, Director of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, said: "We are delighted to be publishing this edition of Hannah Frank's work. Hannah, an early supporter of the Archives Centre, illustrated posters and leaflets for nearly every Glasgow Jewish institution from the late 1920s to the 1950s. The Archives Centre used many of Hannah's drawings for its newsletters, and is happy to be playing its part in bringing Hannah Frank's work to a wider audience in the twenty-first century."

**Hannah Frank: A Glasgow Artist - Drawings and Sculptures is published by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 and is available from [www.hannahfrank.org.uk](http://www.hannahfrank.org.uk) at £21.50 plus £2.50 p&p, and from Amazon.co.uk.**

**Telephone orders: +44 (0)7778 73768. Prints, cards, and recasts of the sculpture are also available. Four Hannah Frank original works are on show at the Glasgow**

**Society of Women Artists Edinburgh Festival exhibition at the Torrance Gallery,  
Dundas St, Edinburgh, from July 31st till August 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**STOP PRESS: Hannah Frank (health permitting) and Fiona Frank will be signing  
advance copies of this book on Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, at 12 noon, at the Torrance  
Gallery, 36 Dundas Street, Edinburgh.**

*Ends*

**Notes for editors:**

1. Fiona Frank is available for interview. Contact her on 07778 73768 or at **[fionafrank@hannahfrank.org.uk](mailto:fionafrank@hannahfrank.org.uk)**
2. Hannah Frank is available for interview and photo-opportunity with her art in Newton Mearns - contact via Fiona Frank.
3. **The book will be launched in Glasgow at Westacres Care Home, Westacres Road, Newton Mearns, on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004 at 5 p.m. – at a small press launch, in the presence of Hannah Frank herself, Harvey Kaplan from the Scottish Jewish Archives, and Fiona Frank.**
4. Review copies will be sent out as soon as they are available. Contact Fiona Frank (contact details above) for a copy.
5. Photographs of Hannah Frank and her work are available on the website **<http://www.hannahfrank.org.uk>**
6. Dates for Hannah Frank exhibitions are currently being planned for Glasgow, Fife, Suffolk and London so far through to 2008. There are discussions proceeding with galleries in Poland and the US.

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