

# PRESS RELEASE

HANNAH FRANK  
A Glasgow Artist

**Deadline Monday 28 March 2005.**

**PICK OF THE DAY...**

**EASTER RADIO: HANNAH FRANK, LAST LIVING LINK TO SCOTTISH  
ART NOUVEAU PERIOD, IN CONVERSATION.**

**The Arts Show,  
BBC Radio Scotland 92.5-94.7 MHz,  
Monday 28 March 2005 6.10pm-7pm.**

Radio listeners will have a rare chance to hear artist Hannah Frank, now 96, the last living link to the Scottish Art Nouveau period and Arts and Crafts movement, in conversation this Easter.

The distinguished artist is interviewed by Clare English for a special 50 minute Easter Monday feature for *The Arts Show* on BBC Radio Scotland.

Arts Show presenter, Clare English said: "As soon as the new book, *Hannah Frank, A Glasgow Artist: Drawings and Sculpture*, landed on my desk I was hooked. As I read it, my thoughts were not 'if' we should interview her but 'when'. Then I met her, and discovered a woman with an incredible mix of humour and self-deprecation, and yet a strong sense of her own ability." She added: "I'd have loved to have met her in 1920's Glasgow. I've a feeling I'd have got on with her. National recognition for her work is long overdue, so I'm really glad to have been able to make this programme."

Hannah studied at the Glasgow School of Art at a time when few women, especially Jewish women, did so. Her works went on to be exhibited in the

Royal Academy and the Royal Glasgow Institute among others. It is said that during the 1960s every Glasgow student's bedsit wall was adorned with a Hannah Frank print of her meticulously executed, Beardsleyesque black and white drawings from the 1920s and 30s. Many feature wraith-like figures, stars and moons and are imbued with danger or melancholy, while others have a youthful exuberance. Her work has been linked to that of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Jessie King.

In the 1950s, under the direction of Benno Schotz, Hannah moved onto sculpture, and produced a large body of work in bronze, terracotta and plaster, up to the 1990s.

Hannah Frank has recently been made an honorary member of the Glasgow Society of Women Artist, in honour of her contribution to Art over her long career, and the publication of her new book. She now lives in a care home in Glasgow, where her drawings and sculptures are on permanent display to residents, staff and visitors. To contribute to a full picture of her life and art for the programme, Clare English also interviewed Hannah Frank's niece, Fiona Frank; residents at the Home; Alma Wolfson, the President of the Glasgow Society of Women Artists; staff at the Glasgow School of Art; and independent art critics – all of whom confirmed Clare's opinion of Hannah Frank as

*“An amazing artist who still has dynamism in her soul”.*

To complement the radio broadcast, a set of framed Hannah Frank prints will be on show for the next four months at Garnethill Synagogue, Hill St, Glasgow (just next to the Glasgow School of Art). Garnethill Synagogue, a beautiful Romanesque building built in 1879 and designed by John McLeod, is the home of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, publishers of the new Hannah Frank art book. The exhibition will be open to members of the public on the SJAC's monthly open afternoons: the next dates are Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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

- *Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, Garnethill Synagogue, 127 Hill Street, Glasgow (close to the Glasgow School of Art).*
- *'Hannah Frank, A Glasgow Artist: Drawings and Sculpture'. Edited by Fiona Frank, published by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre, and available from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and good bookshops.*

(Ends)

**Notes to editors:**

- **PICTURES:** We attach 'GARDEN' by Hannah Frank, 1932, and a picture of Hannah Frank taken at a Glasgow Society of Women Artists exhibition in Edinburgh in 2004. Other photos provided on request, or download more images of prints and sculptures directly from the website, <http://www.hannahfrank.org.uk>
- Press enquiries for 'The Arts Show' should be directed to the BBC Press Office in Glasgow. Contact Jim Wilkie or Lynne McNicol on 0141 338 2684
- Fiona Frank is available for interview: Tel: 07778 737681 E: [fionafrank@hannahfrank.org.uk](mailto:fionafrank@hannahfrank.org.uk) , address 'Silver-Rae', 3 Dalton Road, Lancaster, LA1 3PR.
- Hannah Frank press contact: JUDITH COYLE, 81 Grasmere Road, Lancaster, Lancashire, LA1 3HB. Tel: 01524 60383 and 0795 177 0324 E: [judith@judithcoyle.co.uk](mailto:judith@judithcoyle.co.uk) W: [www.judithcoyle.co.uk](http://www.judithcoyle.co.uk)