

18 Being Artful

Our regular mid-winter exhibitions, entitled *Winter Warmth* and more recently *Artful*, present a diversity of contemporary art and the opportunity to purchase affordable items for Christmas. These exhibitions have built up a reputation for showcasing original, high-quality art and design work from a wealth of artists, designers and craft makers in Scotland and the UK.

1 Challenging negative stereotypes

Alex Rotas' *Growing Old Competitively* exhibition in 2018, of photographs of inspiring older athletes in their 60s-90s, showcased modern positive ideas about what it means to grow older. It received exceptionally strong feedback and provided an opportunity to promote sport and wellbeing across the Falkirk area.



15 Building understanding of our world

We regularly present issue-based exhibitions that highlight how contemporary art can enrich our world by stimulating learning and debate. Shows have included: Christine Jones' *Spain: Still Cause* focused on the on-going struggle for justice in Spain post-Franco; Euan Gray's *Uprooted*, looking at life in the refugee border camps around Calais; and Diana Forster's *Somewhere to Stay* on the effects of being displaced by war.

25 A year of celebration and gratitude

Our success would not be possible without the support of Falkirk Council, the incredible work of dedicated staff and brilliant volunteers, and the many wonderful artists we have partnered with. And of course, our visitors, who make the gallery a vibrant, connected, and collaborative space where creativity is celebrated in all its diversity.

25 years of theparkgallery

Free and for all: celebrating Falkirk's home for contemporary art



22 Championing a Grangemouth superstar

In 2010, the painter, Alan Davie who was born in Grangemouth, turned 90. Widely recognised as one of Europe's most important artists, we enticed him to collaborate on a special exhibition *Alan Davie at 90* to celebrate this milestone birthday. Then in 2015, we presented *A Universal Vision* – a selection of Davie's significant work from the 1940s to 2000, which was cited in a Scottish Parliament motion and received significant coverage, including in the international art magazine Apollo. Over 200 people attended the linked Big Draw printing and storytelling workshops.

13 Spreading a little love

Rob Ryan is an acclaimed British artist renowned for his intricate papercut artworks. In 2016, we asked him to help us celebrate our 15th birthday and *Love Hasn't Even Got Started Yet* showcased his iconic blending of illustration and text to convey poignant messages. "Congratulations on 25 years! Personally, I would rather my work be hung at The Park Gallery than on the hallowed walls of any esteemed London gallery." **Rob Ryan.**

3 Providing unique experiences

As part of Artist Rooms in 2013 we showed the work of Ian Hamilton Finlay, one of Scotland's most distinguished artists. We brought together Youth Ambassadors from local schools to consider the Roman relics within Callendar Park and later present their work in London to the UK Culture Secretary.

theparkgallery FALKIRK COUNCIL

Callendar House | FREE Admission
Callendar Park | Mon-Sun 10am-5pm (Closed Tuesdays)
Falkirk FK1 1YR | Last admission 4pm
www.falkirkleisureandculture.org

Featured artists work: Jill Calder, Marion Deuchars, Julia Donaldson, Linda Farquharson, Tom Gallant, Fabrizio Gianni, Lys Hansen, Viv Lee, Kate Lycett, Steph Liddle, Craig Mitchell, Cleo Mussi, Ruth Nicol, Stewart Parker, Rob Ryan and Fiona Stockland.

2 Sparkling in the park

We have been described as 'a hidden gem' nestled within the stunning setting of Callendar House. Across 25 years, over 130 exhibitions have showcased a huge diversity of art and artists: "Spaces like The Park Gallery are so important. They remind those of us who live outside the cities that art belongs to us too." **Teddy Jamieson**, arts journalist



27 Showcasing the greats

The Park Gallery has initiated and curated, or collaborated with other organisations, to bring exhibitions of globally leading artists to Falkirk, including David Hockney, Alan Davie, Joan Eardley, Barbara Rae, Elizabeth Blackadder, Jill Calder, Andy Goldsworthy, Cleo Mussi and Ruth Nicol, providing visitors with opportunities to engage with exceptional contemporary art by some of the most significant artists of recent times.

9 Exploring artists' lives

In 2009, we hosted *Documenting Life: Joan Eardley and Audrey Walker*, on tour from Gracefield Art Centre, showcasing Eardley's hugely popular art alongside photographs of her at work by Walker. Remarkably, we located the two Samson sisters, who as children had featured in paintings by Joan, and reunite them with a portrait of them at the gallery.



14 Making contemporary connections to local history

Situated within Callendar House, Falkirk's historic home to culture and heritage, we are an ideal place to respond to local history in new ways through contemporary art. *Iron: Artefacts and Actions*, linked to the foundries that thrived in the area; *Workhorse* celebrated the role of the Clydesdale in the area's industrial revolution; and *Leylines and Drawn from the Past: The Museum Mind of Tessa Asquith-Lamb* used Callendar House's museum collection as inspiration.

6 Collaborating with the nation's Children's Laureate

In 2011, we worked with Julia Donaldson, Children's Laureate at the time and author of some of the world's best-loved children's books. *The Illustrators* – created in collaboration with Artlink – highlighted diverse illustrative approaches from a number of artists who had collaborated with Julia across her many books. A critically acclaimed exhibition, its overwhelming success led to us adapting it to tour beyond Falkirk.

10 Igniting and inspiring creativity

Grangemouth-born Marion Deuchars is an award-winning and globally recognised illustrator, who has worked for major leading brands and published a number of hugely popular books. Her *Let's Make Art* interactive exhibition in 2014 was a roaring success with sellout workshops. "Working with The Park Gallery was a truly memorable experience – a homecoming and chance to reconnect with the community that shaped me. I'm proud to be part of its 25-year journey." **Marion Deuchars.**

10 Bringing important work to light

George Garson was a unique Scottish artist who created the Saltire Award-winning civic mural in Grangemouth (designed by Alan Davie) and produced some of the largest mosaic murals and stained-glass art in Britain. After Garson died in 2010, we asked mosaic artist Dugald MacInnes to help us highlight his work through a special retrospective exhibition. The accompanying catalogue we produced forms the most comprehensive overview to date of Garson's work.

11 Hosting landmark exhibitions

As part of GENERATION, a landmark series of exhibitions tracing the remarkable development of Scottish contemporary art, we hosted John Shankie's *Refractory and Refrigeration*. John worked with local communities to explore themes around the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the start of the first world war.

12 Curating desire in memory of a colleague

In 2005, the *Objects of Desire* exhibition created by Stephen Palmer (Arts Development Officer at the time), invited colleagues to select a piece from Falkirk Council's art collection and explain why they liked it. An eclectic and very popular exhibition resulted. We revisited the concept in 2024 as a tribute to Stephen, who was sadly diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in 2019 and died shortly afterwards.

5 Shining a light on young talent

Our *Shining A Light* exhibitions celebrate the immense creativity of sixth-year art and design pupils from High Schools across the area and highlight the success of former pupils making an impact in the creative industries. "The opportunity this gives to our young people to showcase their talent is immeasurable in its influence and the positive impact it has." **Peter Scott**, Art Teacher, Graeme High School, Falkirk



16 Telling exceptional stories

For Scotland's Year of Stories in 2022, we featured award-winning author and illustrator duo, Metaphrog (John Chalmers and Sandra Marrs), creators of acclaimed children's graphic novels and comics. Through art, prints, and artefacts, we showcased the creative process behind their graphic novels over a 20+ year career. This unique exhibition intrigued both adults and children, and was toured to venues across Scotland.

24 Adding an extra spark

Our volunteers make a vital contribution to the success of the gallery, adding an extra spark to our visitor engagement. We hugely value the difference they make to how people experience and enjoy our exhibitions. "I took pride in my role as interlocutor between what was on the walls and the general public, and gained confidence interpreting and discussing art." **Gareth Richardson-Peat**, volunteer.

17 Celebrating artists from the area

Our on-going championing of artists from the local area opens minds to the talent and creativity the Falkirk area has originated. Exhibitions of renowned artists have included Lys Hansen, Catherine King, Frances Law, Lesley Banks, Tim Lenathan, Lesley Anne Derks, Jaqueline Marr, Jade Stout, Callum Stevenson, Christine Jones, Fiona Strickland, Dugald MacInnes, Stewart Parker and James McDonald.

20 Creating with the High Flats residents

Local artists Alex Hetherington and Janie Nicoll engaged in a unique collaboration with the occupants of the High Flats, the seven tower blocks at the edge of Callendar Park, resulting in installation, films and sound pieces, as well as *The Village Voice* – a quarterly arts newspaper created with input from the residents and distributed to all 587 flats.

8 Rediscovering a leading light

Fabrizio Gianni was one of the international fashion world's most in-demand photographers who later in life made Falkirk his home. The Park Gallery curator, Gillian Smith, discovered this local leading light and persuaded him to show his work at the gallery. *Fantasia* was the dazzling exhibition that resulted, presenting images that had graced the world's leading magazines.

23 Delivering dynamic new perspectives

Audience engagement is vital to every exhibition we present, helping to deepen understanding and enjoyment. Through talks, workshops, and events, we aim to engage all ages in stimulating opportunities to inform, inspire, and educate audiences about how contemporary art can bring new perspectives to the world we live in.

7 Honoring decades of a Dame

Falkirk-born Dame Elizabeth Blackadder is one of Scotland's greatest artists, with her work held in collections around the world. In 2011, the year of her 80th birthday, we joined with The University of Stirling to present parallel exhibitions celebrating her art and that of her husband, John Houston, also an influential artist.

