

# The Gillian Purvis Trust

NEWSLETTER No.5 SEPTEMBER 2008

Supported by the Stanley Morrison Trust

## A NOVEL WAY TO REMEMBER



**Liz Lochhead, Toby Paterson and Fiona Rintoul, winner of the first Gillian Purvis Award for New Writing**  
Image courtesy of The Herald & Evening Times picture archive

For three years the Trust had wished to make an award to a student of creative writing, a sphere of particular interest to Gillian. It was not until Liz Lochhead became involved earlier this year that the process fell into place. Thanks to Liz's invaluable expertise and contacts, applications were invited from students at the University of Glasgow, the University of Strathclyde and the Glasgow School of Art. An impressive range of poetry and prose was submitted from all three institutions, Fiona Rintoul emerging as the outright winner.

## FIONA RINTOUL WINS THE NEW AWARD FOR NEW WRITING

This is how it was reported in *The Herald* on 31 May 2008:

“WRITE STUFF

Playwright and poet Liz Lochhead yesterday presented an inaugural award for creative writing to a young Scottish novelist.

Fiona Rintoul is the first ever winner of The Gillian Purvis Award for New Writing. Ms Rintoul, from East Kilbride, received the £1500 award from The Gillian Purvis Trust at a ceremony at Glasgow University.

Lochhead, current writer in residence at the university, said: ‘We received fantastic entries but I’m very pleased Fiona won. Her work struck me very forcefully. I’m honoured to be involved.’

Glasgow artist Toby Paterson, who set up the Trust in memory of his late partner, said: ‘From an impressive range of writing submitted to the trustees, Fiona emerged as the outstanding winner.’

Ms Rintoul, an MLitt creative writing student at the university, will use her award to complete her first novel, the story of a young Scotsman who moved to Berlin in 1986. She said: ‘I’m very pleased. Having your work endorsed is something really meaningful.’ She plans to travel to Berlin to continue her research for the novel. ‘The award allows me to add an essential element of authenticity to my writing,’ she added.

... Mr Paterson said: ‘We [the Trust] have been going for four years and it’s gone beyond our expectations of what we have been able to achieve. The textile award [at Glasgow School of Art] is at the core of the Trust, but we are trying to diversify across a broad range of creative fields that Gillian was interested in, and literature was a big part of her cultural life. She would have been delighted.’ “

It is planned that the Award for New Writing will be added to the Trust’s portfolio of annual Awards and that the Trustees will seek each year to engage a writer to assist in the selection process.

In the meantime, we send all best wishes to Fiona for great success in her first novel and hope that it may not be long before we are queuing with copies for signature by the author.

## A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION AS HILLARY FRY ACCEPTS THE GILLIAN PURVIS AWARD 2008



Liz Lochhead, Hillary Fry, Toby Paterson, Jennifer Groundwater and Seona Reid, Director GSA

From Wisconsin USA, Hillary knew that, as an international student, she was taking on a major financial burden and her dollars counted less and less during her time in Glasgow, but she says “each year I fell more in love with the course and felt as though it was best for me and was worth the sacrifice, especially the final year.”

And so the Trust was delighted to help Hillary Fry in the build up to her Glasgow School of Art Degree Show in June 2008, both by enabling her to give up some of her paid work to spend more time in the studio and also to help buy materials for her final display of work. Toby awarded the £750 Award to Hillary in January. Students, staff, Gillian’s family and donor friends gathered to celebrate the announcement. Many thanks to Glasgow School of Art, particularly Jimmy Stephen Cran, Susan Telford and colleagues in the Textile Department, for their welcome and for making the arrangements.

Hillary told the Trustees: “I chose to study embroidery because of its flexibility; I can apply a wide variety of materials and achieve both flat and 3D effects. I enjoy combining hand and machine embroidery and I find the act of sewing both mentally and physically fulfilling.” Focusing on interior spaces, Hillary is enjoying the challenges of scale and colour in aiming to bring the tactile and visual intricacy of embroidery to interiors, the way it is used in fashion.

The Trustees were naturally delighted to congratulate Hillary when her hard work and talent were further rewarded with a First Class Honours Degree. After graduation, she took her work to the Young Designers’ Show in London where it was extremely well received and several positive contacts made.

The Trustees also enjoyed all the other applications and wish the candidates all the best for the future



Hillary Fry and her Degree Show 2008



#### EUROPEAN RESEARCH TRIP FOR JENNIFER GROUNDWATER

The Gillian Purvis Award for Travel for Primary Research (£500) was won in 2007 by Jennifer Groundwater. Fourth year textile student at Glasgow School of Art, Jennifer provided a colourful and comprehensive report to the Trustees. Read on for a glimpse at how she benefited from the Award.

“I am now happy to report to the Trust on my experiences of my research trip to Europe in the summer. The purpose of my trip was to gain knowledge of traditional embroidery methods and designs.

I managed to visit France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Lichtenstein and Germany. The trip has been completely invaluable and is the whole basis for my final year at the Glasgow School of Art. I explored the landscape, architecture, art, history and culture of each country I visited. The Award provided me with a unique opportunity to experience first-hand the traditions and cultures of so many European countries. I gained a vast amount from primary research and collected plenty of secondary sources.

Garmisch Partenkirchen in Bavaria was one of my favourite places, situated high up in the Alps. The buildings have been painted with traditional murals,



A hint of the haberdashery and inspiration Jennifer found for her work in fourth year during her trip



featuring stories and characters in folk costume. It was a revelation to observe that people really lived in such a fascinating and ‘fairy-tale’ like town. The colours were wonderful and will inspire my drawings and designs with a rich and varied palette. The picturesque

buildings in Switzerland particularly inspired me with their intricate wood carvings on roofs, windows and shutters. It seemed to me that the traditional embroidery methods reflected the landscape, architecture and history of each country I visited.

My trip lasted three weeks and I covered just over 3000 miles. Most of my budget was spent on travel and campsite fees, though I was delighted to have enough to fund wonderful source materials, such as postcards, ribbons and buttons and other traditional artefacts that will form the core of my fourth year collection.

My research trip to Europe was an amazing and inspirational experience. I would not have the research portfolio that I gathered were it not for the Gillian Purvis Award. This was an opportunity for which I am very grateful, enabling me to visit countries that for many generations have produced incredibly beautiful embroidery that will inspire my own work. My thanks and gratitude for your generous Award.”

#### IAN PORTER RESEARCHES IN BERLIN, THANKS TO THE TRUST

The 2008 Award to travel for research was presented to Ian Porter who planned to go to Berlin this summer.

Ian’s particular interest for fourth year in textiles at Glasgow School of Art is to relate his work to printed ephemera (tickets, maps, instruction manuals) and found typography (shop signs, monuments, car badges). He tells us “I find these types of objects fascinating because of the huge amount of variety that exists in something so commonplace. The colours, typefaces, arrangements, size and shape of lettering

vary an enormous amount considering that in its basic form, type is merely a way of carrying and sharing information. However, when this information is lost, either through not knowing what a word is describing, or not understanding the language it appears in, is when the most interesting areas of research, for me, become apparent. In my most recent projects, I have been looking at found type that is either unintelligible physically (broken, partially hidden, missing) or literally (in a foreign language, scientific names, technical abbreviations) as it allows me to consider the shape, form and colour of the type without the baggage of its meaning. The drawings that I have made are tools for the production of textiles and the process of embroidering adds another layer of interest to the work. By using techniques such as patchwork, appliqué and large areas of satin stitch, I am looking to create a response to the lines and forms of the typography that translates into a fabric design. As opposed to a ‘painting with stitch’ approach, I like to build up distinct areas of colour and texture that use embroidery in a clean, technical way.

A foreign language makes the letters into unrecognizable shapes. The German language plays host to an enormous amount of lengthy words and unusual accents and diacritics, ess-zets and umlauts that lend an unusual and visually striking appearance to a word. Germany also has a long history of embracing type and printed text, from Gutenberg’s bible to designers like Jan Tschichold, pioneer of the classic Penguin paperback look.

Travelling to Germany would also be beneficial in researching my dissertation topic, Aesthetics in Nazi Germany and the German Democratic Republic. Despite the destruction of the Second World War, many remnants of the twisted ideals of the Nazis still remain scattered throughout the country, often alongside those of a different kind of oppressive regime, that of the Stasi and the Warsaw pact: In Freidrichshain Park, a derelict Stasi listening-post sits atop a hill formed from the rubble of around 4,000 buildings that covers the ruins of a Nazi college. I believe that seeing locations like this and the primary research opportunities will be an invaluable asset to the Historical and Critical Studies section of my final year.”

We wish Ian well in his final year and look forward to his degree show in June 2009.

#### ANOTHER INSTITUTION AND MORE HELP FOR STUDENTS

Trustee, Robert Johnston, followed up conversations he had had at Cardonald College with a visit, along with the Chairman, to the annual Fashion Show at the college in June 2008. They were impressed with what they saw and the Trustees will be considering help from the Trust for students in the Fashion Department at Cardonald College.



Family gathering, Jim & Libby Purvis and Hazel Quinn (Gillian's sister) with Phoebe and Joseph at the announcement of The Gillian Purvis Award 2008

**THE FUNDING STREAM FLOWS ON – THANK YOU!**

**FROM THE FAMILY**

During the celebration at GSA in January when the 2008 Award was announced, an envelope was slipped to the Treasurer of the Trust in typical modest Purvis fashion. The envelope contained a five-figure donation to the Trust from Gillian's immediate family. This extraordinarily welcome gesture from the family was especially welcomed by Trustees as the ultimate seal of approval for the work of the Trust carried out in Gillian's memory. Heartfelt gratitude goes to Jim, Libby, Hazel and Bevan for this generosity. At a stage when the Trustees are expanding the schedule of annual grants, the timing of the gift was perfect in ensuring security of awards for the benefit of many more students into the future.

**THE HUGH FRASER FOUNDATION**

Inspired by the purposes and the work of the Trust, the Trustees of The Hugh Fraser Foundation made a donation of £1,000 to the Trust in September 2007, and a further £1,000 in 2008. This provided the means to move ahead and confirm the new award for creative writing that was made in June this year.

**THE STANLEY MORRISON TRUST**

The Stanley Morrison Trust continues to provide support for the production and mailing costs of this Newsletter. This safeguards donations to the Trust for the benefit of the student recipients.

**THE ETERNAL SPRING**

The Trust is very grateful for the continuing and valuable support from its regular donors. This provides the important security for Trustees to plan future awards and widen the scope of support for students. Thanks to: Lena Armitage, Louise Brady, Gary Browne, Gillian Buchanan, Leigh Ferguson, Robert Dallas, Sorcha Dallas, Stephen Hampson, Anna Johnston, Joan Johnston, Tom O'Sullivan & Joanne Tatham, Sam Paterson, Andy & Ruth Rae, Jim Smith, Cindy Sughrue, Lisa Sutherland and Toby Webster.

**RUNNING ON**

More miles were covered for the Trust when Kate Davis ran in the Women's 10K last year and raised a welcome pot of sponsorship for the Trust.

**AND MORE**

Returning donors have helped over the past year too: Ivan & Jenny Alexander, Mrs V H B Ashford, Margaret E Brown, Ron & Lennie Cole, Prof. & Mrs J Davis, Alex & Catriona Donald, Mr Colin Gray, Louise Hopkins, Janice Hunter, Alex & Lorraine Johnston, Hamish & Lizzie Millar, Ian & Mary Purvis, Dr Rebecca Robinson, Prof. Lorraine Smith, A M & E J Thomson, K S & N H Vantor, J M Williams and Michelle Wilson.

**EXPERT HELP**

We are indebted to Liz Lochhead for all her work in setting up and processing the Award for New Writing. It was a great privilege for the Trust to work with her and her offer of support for the development of this important new award is warmly welcomed.

The Trust is especially fortunate to receive the professional services as sponsorship of Alex Johnston of Campbell Dallas, Chartered Accountants, for the audit and production of the annual report and accounts.

Thanks to "The Herald" for permission to use their picture for the front cover and also for providing copy at no charge.

Continued support from Colin Hardie for the website, Robert Johnston for design of the Newsletter and Simon Paterson for photographs is very much appreciated.

**FIRST CLASS LYNSEY PARK**

After winning her Award in 2007, reported in the last Newsletter, Lynsey Park went on to produce a Degree Show gaining her a First Class Degree from Glasgow School of Art.

**Lynsey Park's Degree Show 2007**



**"ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST TALKED ABOUT YOUNG DESIGNERS"**

*The Herald Magazine* September 2007

The Trust's first-ever Award winner, in 2005, Scott Ramsay Kyle is making a name for himself on the international fashion circuit. His achievements since graduating from Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London only in March last year, include a slot in London Fashion Week in September 2007, a collaboration with the Boudicca label on couture pieces for Paris Fashion Week and a nomination for Young Designer of the Year at the Scottish Fashion Awards 2008.

"It was Scott Ramsay Kyle who stole the limelight with a model in an elaborate creation of vibrant colours and a flared, channelled, woollen skirt; something of a shining light for the organisation, the designer hand-embroidered for Biba's autumn/winter 2008-09 offering, in addition to producing his own-name collection this season." *Vogue* 21.2.08

"If Christopher Kane is the current king of Scottish fashion, Scott Ramsay Kyle is the young pretender... fashion editors singing his praises..." *London Calling* September 2007

Appetite whetted? Check out [www.scottramsaykyle.com](http://www.scottramsaykyle.com) and other websites bearing his name.



## AWARDS MADE FROM THE GILLIAN PURVIS TRUST

### THE GILLIAN PURVIS AWARD

To a fourth year Design student in the Department of Textiles, The Glasgow School of Art

- 2005 Scott Ramsay Kyle
- 2006 Catherine Aitken
- 2007 Lynsey Park
- 2008 Hillary Fry

### THE GILLIAN PURVIS AWARD FOR TRAVEL FOR PRIMARY RESEARCH

To a third year Design student in the Department of Textiles, The Glasgow School of Art

- 2006 Holly Rothwell
- 2007 Jennifer Groundwater
- 2008 Ian Porter

### THE GILLIAN PURVIS AWARD FOR NEW WRITING

To a student of creative writing at The University of Glasgow, The University of Strathclyde or The Glasgow School of Art

- 2008 Fiona Rintoul, University of Glasgow

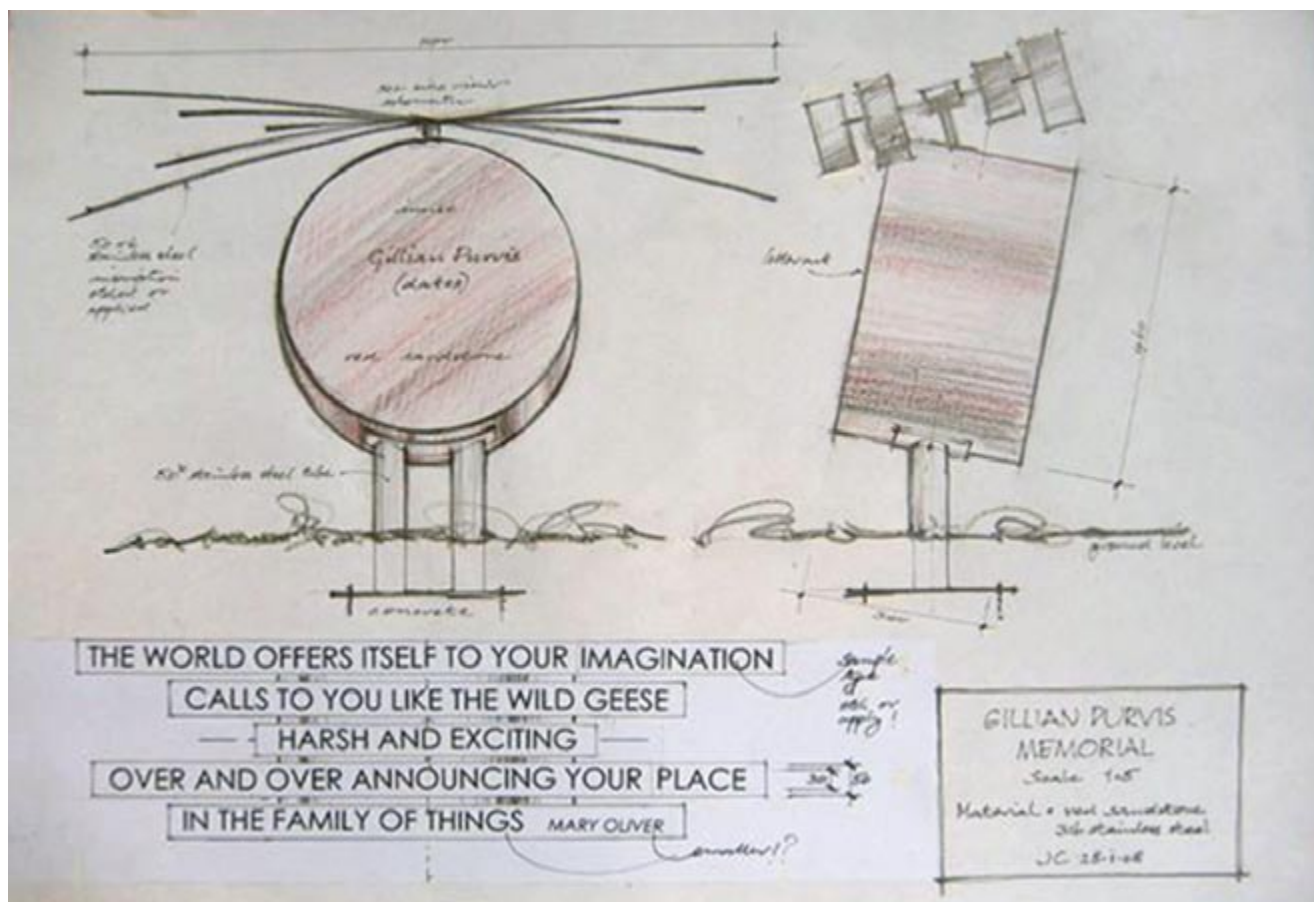
## UPDATE ON SECC MEMORIAL FOR GILLIAN

The design for the memorial for Gillian initiated and sponsored by the SECC has been emerging over the past four years. The plans are just about complete. Toby has continued to work with John Creed, designer blacksmith, on the design that will incorporate elements linking with the memory of Gillian. Toby and John were delighted at Jim Purvis's suggestion for a piece of red sandstone from the garden of the family home in Dunblane to be included. The block came from the quarry that provided stone for Kelvingrove Art Galleries & Museum, many Glasgow tenements and the new BBC Scotland headquarters, for which Toby was the lead artist during 2007. Lines from the Mary Oliver poem *Wild Geese*, chosen by Toby for the memorial service, will be inscribed on the work.

Owing to the extensive building work planned at SECC it will be some time before an appropriate site can be identified for the piece to be installed. In the meantime, below, courtesy of John Creed, here is a glimpse of what's to come.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THE TRUST

Please note the change of address for the Trust: Flat 0/1, 4 Queens Gardens, Glasgow G12 9DG.



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Trustees: Robert Johnston, Sarah Lowndes, Toby Paterson (Chairman), Hazel Quinn, Sally Swadel, Anne Ward. Secretary/Treasurer: Lesley Paterson