

**My Love is like a red red rose**  
Three Centuries of Art in Scotland  
18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> century  
21 November 2015 – 28 February 2016  
Musée du château des ducs de Wurtemberg, Montbéliard, France

**Exhibition opening: Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 6pm**

Inspired by a ballad written by the poet Robert Burns - "My Love is like a red red rose" (1788) - the title of this exhibition introduces a quasi-amorous focus on the artistic scenes in Scotland, since the country is the guest of honour at the Montbéliard Christmas Market this winter. For the Romans, Scotland was "on the edge of the habitable world"; but Voltaire claimed that, "we look to Scotland for all our ideas of civilisation".

Ranging over three hundred years of art history, this exhibition attempts to highlight independent spirit, trace filiations, touch upon certain clichés and open new perspectives.

Approximately 100 loans are brought together from universities, national and private collections in Scotland and England, as well as from French public collections for the first time in France. Combining the traditional and the avant-garde, paintings, photographs, furniture, films, sculptures are in dialogue with Scottish philosophy, literature, music and dance.

Beginning in the Age of Enlightenment with portrait painters who played a major role in the intellectual life of Edinburgh, pioneering research in social sciences and aesthetics, the exhibition continues with a series of Scottish landscapes tinted by national sentiment and romanticism. Nature and culture merge in panoramic views of the river Clyde and the lochs, often echoing Walter Scott's novels. The cruel legacy of the Highland clearances, forcing thousands of farmers to emigrate, is manifest. Social realism and a sense of belonging to a Celtic culture converge. The typically Victorian Pre-Raphaelite movement reveals genre scenes and historical legends, while Symbolism plunges into inner voyages.

In full industrial expansion, Glasgow becomes a new cultural capital in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hill & Adamson undertake documentary and humanist photography such as the early calotypes taken at the port of Newhaven. The Glasgow Boys opt for a more realist approach in urban and rural painting. Leading the Glasgow Style, architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh and The Four set the tone for a new era: they invent a type of modernism, associating symbolist curves and myths to geometric rigour. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Edinburgh group of painters head to Paris. In their landscapes and still lives, the Colourists address forms through colour. Among them, John Duncan Fergusson extends his research to movement and rhythm, influenced by the revolutions occurring in dance at the time.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Eduardo Paolozzi and Ian Hamilton Finlay represent a new generation of Scottish sculptors, rooted in the human condition and poetry, Pop culture and conceptual art. Since then, the Scottish art scenes and their highly diverse practices – from design, to experimental film, painting, and applied arts – occupy a significant place internationally. Many artists activate their cultural memory to forge their contemporary projections. Douglas Gordon declares: "I Still Believe In Miracles".

**The exhibition includes works by:** Henry Raeburn, Allan Ramsay, Medina the Younger, David Martin, John Fleming, Charlotte Nasmyth, John MacWhirter, Abraham Cooper, Joseph Noel Paton, John Watson Nicol, David Gauld, John Duncan, James Ferrier Pryde, Duncan McGregor Whyte, David Octavius Hill & Robert Adamson, James Craig Annan, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Katherine Cameron, Christopher Dresser, William York MacGregor, Samuel John Peploe, Francis Boileau Cadell, George Leslie Hunter, John Duncan Fergusson, Margaret Morris, John Grierson, William MacTaggart, Anne Redpath, Margaret Tait, Norman McLaren, Eduardo Paolozzi, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Douglas Gordon, Lucy McKenzie, Martin Boyce, Luke Fowler, Katie Schwab, as well as major publications.

**Exhibition curators:**

Caroline Hancock, Independent curator  
Aurélie Voltz, Director of the Musées de Montbéliard

**Caroline Hancock, co-curator of the exhibition**

Caroline Hancock is an independent curator and writer. In 2015, she was guest-curator of the PAC Spring festival in Marseille and of the group show "The Untold Want" at the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin. Between 1998 and 2009, she worked at the Centre Pompidou and Musée d'art moderne in Paris, Tate Modern and The Hayward in London, and the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) in Dublin. She is member of AICA and writes regularly on modern and contemporary art. Born in 1974, she lives and works in Paris. [www.carolinehancock.com](http://www.carolinehancock.com)

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Perth Museum and Art Gallery, Perth Kinross Council, Perth  
National Film Board of Canada, Mr Alex Pirie, Margaret Tait Collection  
National Library of Scotland, Moving Image Archive

**Provenance of the loans:**

More than 100 loans have been granted to the Musées de Montbéliard on this occasion: over 50 loans come from Scotland, twenty from England and thirty from France; an enthusiastic response which shows that the Auld Alliance is thriving.

The municipal collections of the Ville de Montbéliard have also found a relevant place in this exhibition: loans in connection with Scotland are included from the Médiathèque municipale, and from the collections of the Musée Beurnier-Rossel and the Department of Natural Sciences.

## **Events during the exhibition**

Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 2015: screening at Le Colisée cinema in Montbéliard of the film *Mary, Queen of Scots* (2014) by Thomas Imbach, 8.15pm.

Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> 2016: *Burns Night* at the Musée du Château des ducs de Wurtemberg  
For the last 200 years, every 25 January (the poet's birthdate), Robert Burns is celebrated by Scottishfolks all over the world. On this festive evening, the programme includes dancing, readings and a thematic exhibition visit.

Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 2016: a conference on “Scotland and Aesthetics”, led by Jacinto Lageira, Professeur des Universités Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne (Visual Arts and Art Sciences) at the Musée du château des ducs de Wurtemberg, in Montbéliard.

## **Musée du château des ducs de Wurtemberg**

25200 Montbéliard, France  
Tél. : 0033 3 81 99 22 61  
musees@montbeliard.com  
www.montbeliard.fr

### **Opening times:**

Every day, except Tuesdays  
10am-12noon and 2-6pm  
The museum is closed on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Press contacts**

Caroline Hancock  
Tel : 00 33 6 37 42 45 37  
hancockcaroline8@gmail.com

Musées de Montbéliard : Aurélie Voltz  
Tel: 00 33 3 81 99 23 45 / 00 33 6 65 33 07 32  
avoltz@montbeliard.com