

Desire Lines

Art on Campus

Talbot Rice Gallery



Hello

The background of the entire page is a blurred photograph of a modern, multi-story building. The building features a prominent horizontal band of large windows in the upper section and a balcony or overhang structure below it. The overall color palette is muted, with shades of beige, tan, and light blue.

I am your guide.
Please take me with you.

Desire line (*plural* desire lines)

n.

1. A path that pedestrians take informally, rather than taking a pavement or official route; e.g. a well-worn ribbon of dirt that one sees cutting across a patch of grass, or paths in the snow.

Desire Lines is an evocative title for an exhibition, but its meaning forms the backbone of this project. Talbot Rice Gallery has branched out from the walls of our usual home and is inhabiting five distinct locations in the University of Edinburgh central campus.

Five very different artists have been encouraged to find their own place on the University campus. Some have responded to the unique architecture, some to the very fact that this is a University, with thousands of students at its heart. What links all the artists is a wish to make us stop and question; both our surroundings, and the reason for their existence. Through sculpture, photography and paint, each artist has engaged with a campus that has itself evolved over hundreds of years, and has been shaped by those that have come to use it.

Whether you are a visiting member of the public, student or staff member, we hope you will use this booklet as a starting point for your exploration - the directions given on the following pages are just one way of seeking out the exciting selection of artworks that are waiting to be discovered.

**Image: George Square Lecture Theatre,
the location for Miranda Blennerhassett's wall painting.**

Information Hub

You may have picked up this guide at the Information Hub, situated in the foyer area of Talbot Rice Gallery.

The Hub is open from Monday - Friday, 10am - 5pm and has a selection of reading material on each of the artists, as well as space for you to leave your thoughts and comments on the exhibition.

Guide to map

Each coloured square on the map opposite corresponds to the artists' chosen location listed below. You can follow the prescribed routes given, or create your own desire line...

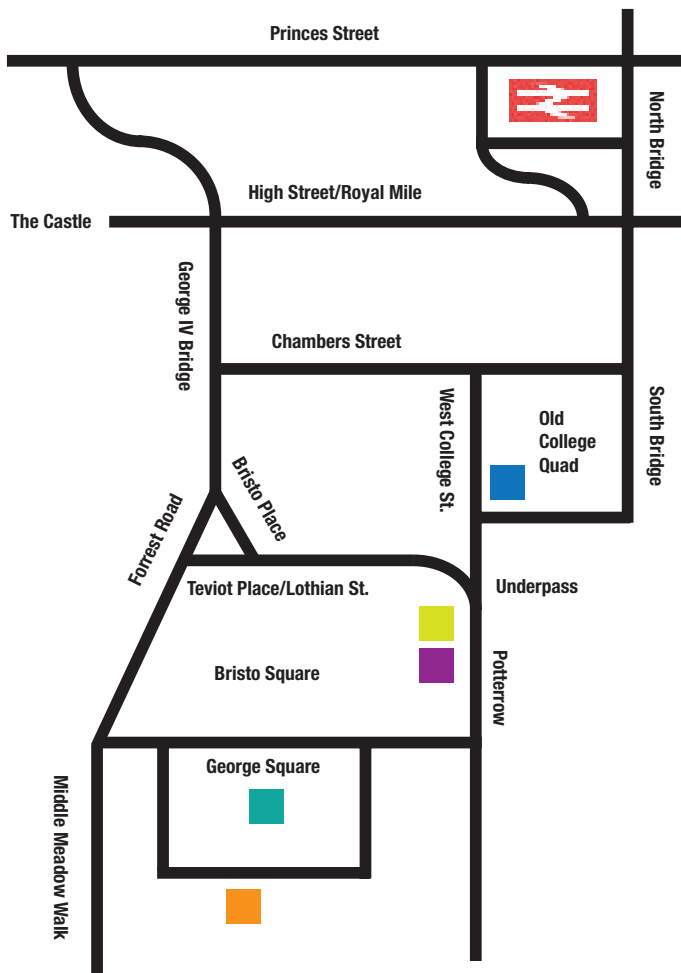
Oliver Godow Information Hub at Old College Quad

Iain Kettles Potterrow Student Centre

Ellen Munro Potterrow Student Centre

Alec Finlay George Square Gardens

Miranda Blennerhassett George Square Lecture Theatre





How to get there:

Oliver Godow's work is situated in and around the Information Hub.

Oliver Godow Information Hub

Oliver Godow employs the photographic medium to observe subtle but powerful visual juxtapositions, often within environments in a state of flux. He is interested in observing the everyday, through a unique sense of composition and colour. For *Desire Lines*, Godow has created a photographic portrait of life in the University, visiting various departments and capturing traces of occupancy and daily life. Godow invites us to look at and question our surroundings and their use.

Oliver Godow was born in Germany and completed his MFA at the Glasgow School of Art. He is now based in Edinburgh, where he is also a resident artist at Stills Gallery. His work has also been supported by the Goethe Institute, Glasgow, and the German Consulate in Edinburgh.

It's not the end of the beginning but the beginning of the end
part of the series *'We are in the middle of something'*
Edinburgh University 2008-09
2008



How to get there:

From the Information Hub, exit onto West College Street and head south under the underpass. Take the right hand side and the entrance to Potterrow Student Centre is to your left at the top of the slope, next to the cycle racks. Enter through the double doors, taking the right hand doors into the main space, where you will encounter the artworks.

Iain Kettles

Potterrow Student Centre

Iain Kettles creates fantastical, outlandish and playful sculptures that often take the form of inflatables. Kettles places work in public places and often without announcement, giving his work a subversive edge. For *Desire Lines*, Kettles will install in Potterrow Student Centre a series of inflatable masks that humorously represent various 'tribes' within the University student population.

Iain Kettles studied at the Glasgow School of Art, and lives and works in Glasgow.



How to get there:

From the Information Hub, exit onto West College Street and head south under the underpass. Take the right hand side path and the entrance to Potterrow Student Centre is to your left at the top of the slope, next to the cycle racks. Enter through the double doors, taking the right hand doors into the main space, You will find Ellen's work in the sunken area of the courtyard.

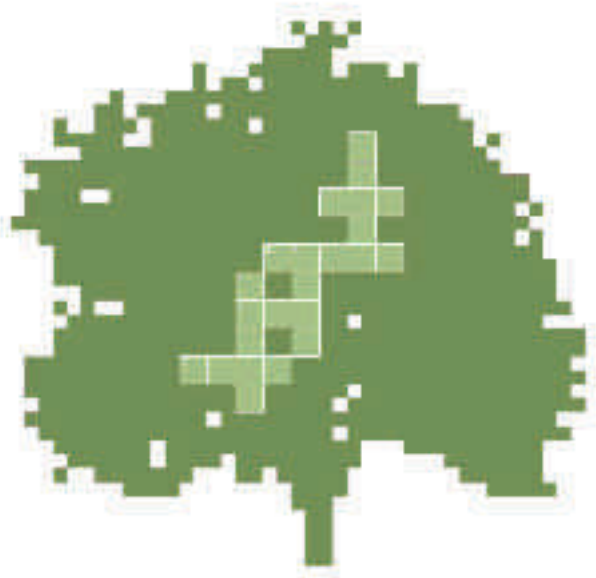
Ellen Munro

Potterrow Student Centre

Ellen Munro has responded to the vibrant student union setting of Potterrow to create an installation that draws on diverse decorative inspirations. From Egyptological artefacts to the 'eighties' obsession with the generic ethnic print, Munro extracts the visual elements of each to adorn a collection of ready-made terracotta pots. Playing with pots past and present, including Attic vases and plastic 'Palladian' planters, the artwork questions the cultural commodification of these past histories.

Ellen Munro was born in Scotland and completed her MFA at Edinburgh College of Art. She lives and works in Edinburgh.

Messopotamia
Drawing, 2009
Courtesy the artist



Clues:

In Autumn's decal derby (5)

A helmet of gold (3)

Stone Age ancestor (4)

Prelim exam (4)

Apollo, in camo, AK47 ready to fire (3)

Align the planets (5)

How to get there:

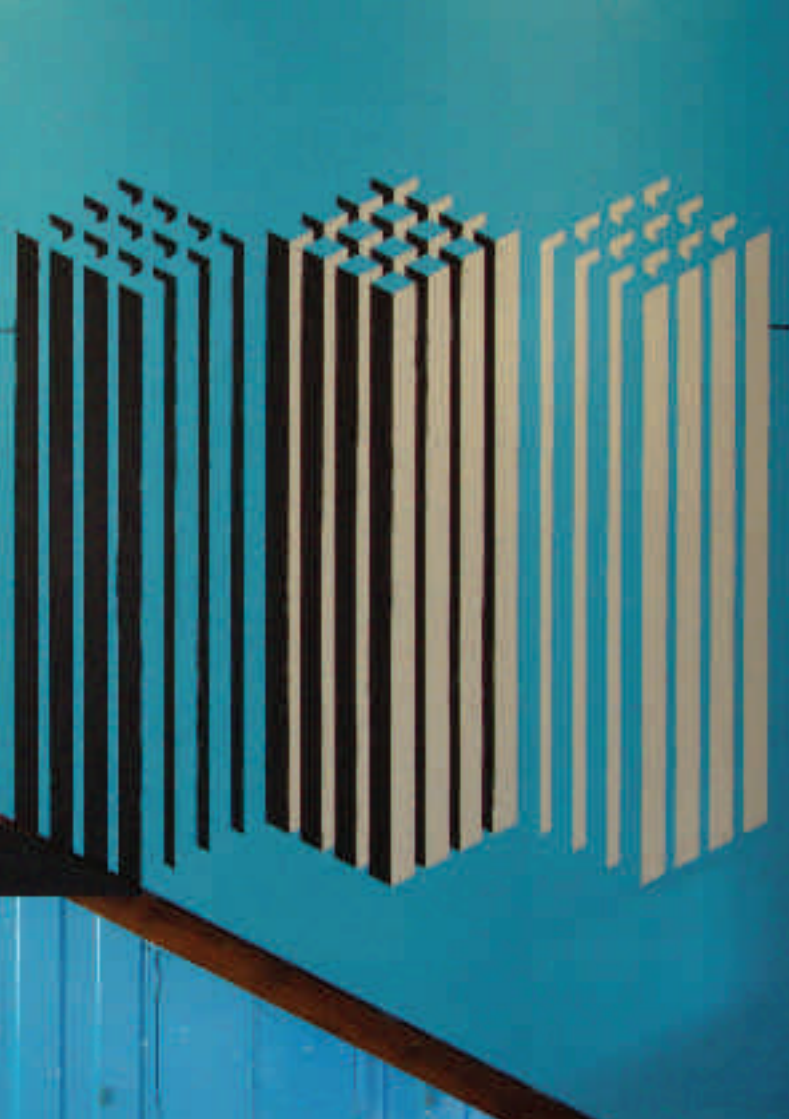
From the Information Hub, exit onto West College Street and head south under the underpass. Take the right hand side path and pass the front of Potterrow Student Centre. Keep walking straight ahead and you will eventually arrive at George Square. The Gardens have several access points around their perimeter. Once inside, there are six trees for you to discover and each box displays one of the clues opposite.

Alec Finlay

George Square Gardens

Alec Finlay is an artist, poet and publisher who has created a series of projects concerned with nature and landscape. As part of a country-wide project entitled *Home to a king (3)*, Finlay has installed a series of nest-boxes which can be discovered by visitors. In George Square Gardens and Kings buildings each box displays a poem-clue; a playful intersection of language, location and ecology. Embedded within the clues are the names of trees. Each nest-box is painted a specified leaf colour and adorns its host species.

Alec Finlay was born in Scotland and lives in Newcastle upon Tyne.



How to get there:

From the Information Hub, exit onto West College Street and head south under the underpass. Take the right hand side path and pass the front of Potterrow Student Centre. Keep walking straight ahead and you will eventually arrive at George Square. The Lecture Theatre is on the opposite side of the square, next to the main library.

Once inside, the work is located on a landing on the first floor, as well as downstairs to the rear of the building.

Please Note: This building is closed on Wednesday afternoons from 12pm, and during University Holidays - please check our website for details.

Miranda Blennerhassett

George Square Lecture Theatre

Miranda Blennerhassett draws on her interest in a modernist architectural environment to create minimal yet intimate painted installations that align themselves with the overlooked architectural detail of their surroundings. Blennerhassett has responded to George Square Lecture theatre, a unique RMJM structure completed in 1966, where the artist has painted directly onto passageway walls. Blennerhassett has found inspiration in the 'brutalist' architecture of the structure and seeks to encourage users to re-assess a building that has divided opinions since it was built.

Miranda Blennerhassett was born in Scotland and studied at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art. She lives and works in Dundee.

Regular Tours throughout the exhibition

Wednesday Walkabouts at One

These tours will run fortnightly throughout the exhibition starting on 25 February finishing on 17 June. Meet at the Information Hub at the entrance to Talbot Rice Gallery. The tour will take around 45 minutes. Please bring appropriate clothing, as some of the tour will be outside. No need to book, just turn up on the day.

Tailor Made Tours

Throughout the duration of the exhibition

The aim of the education service is to enhance visitor enjoyment and understanding of the exhibition programme. The gallery welcomes groups of all shapes and sizes whatever your interests and background. Simply contact the gallery to arrange a tour that suits you.

FREE event - booking essential - contact info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk 0131 650 2211

Artists Events

Throughout the exhibition

The exhibiting artists will work with the gallery staff on a series of events that run across the duration of the exhibition. Full details will be made available on the gallery's website www.trg.ac.uk so watch this space.

Unitots – Art on Campus

May – June

Talbot Rice Gallery will collaborate with artist Rosie Gibson and the University of Edinburgh's Unitots nursery to develop artwork with the children over a number of weeks that will also be sited on campus. For more details please see our website.

Your Feedback

We would really appreciate your feedback on all aspects of the *Desire Lines* exhibition. After your tour, please visit the Information Hub where you collected this guide. You can post your thoughts on the work and the project.



Visitor Field Notes

Desire Lines - Art on Campus

16 February - 19 June 2009

Talbot Rice Gallery

The University of Edinburgh
Old College, South Bridge
Edinburgh EH8 9YL

+44 (0) 131 650 2210

www.trg.ed.ac.uk

info.talbotrice@ed.ac.uk

Open Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm
Admission free

Home to a King (3): Maple crossword solutions:

Across: 2.oak; 3.alder; 6.elm; 7.gean

Down: 1.plane; 4.lime; 5.cedar

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