

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

1 August 2019

IMAGES: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/u3425m> - DAVID SANDUM AND THE SAWYER GALLERY

Scandinavian artist in residence starts with blank walls at Inverewe

Swedish-born artist David Sandum starts his residency at the National Trust for Scotland's Inverewe Garden this weekend (Saturday 3 August).

Over the course of his six-week stint at the Sawyer Gallery, he'll be filling the blank walls of the gallery with paintings and drawings inspired by Inverewe.

He will work out in the garden, interacting with the public as much as possible during his stay.

The exhibition is titled 'Evolving Impressions' to capture how it will develop and grow during his stay. A 'Meet the Artist' event takes place on Saturday 17 August to see how the piece is shaping up.

Kevin Frediani Operations Manager at Inverewe said: "David is such an interesting artist and we can't wait to see how his experience at Inverewe inspires his imagination. With such a rich environment and so many interesting people who spend time here as volunteers, staff and visitors, his creation will be a true one off."

Based in Moss, Norway, David began drawing and painting in the early 2000s while experiencing depression. He was inspired by Edvard Munch's philosophy that we should all write or paint our life story. David works in a variety of mediums including oils, watercolours and charcoal, as well as print-making.

The Sawyer Gallery is located in Inverewe House, located at the centre of the world famous Inverewe Garden - a lush oasis perched on a peninsula at the shores of Loch Ewe amid the rugged landscape of Wester Ross.

For more information, visit www.nts.org.uk.

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Editor's Notes:

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1. About David Sandum

Born and raised in Sweden, David Sandum moved with his wife to the United States in the early 1990s and settled in Salt Lake City. He attended the University of Utah and graduated in 1999 with a BA in speech communication. Soon after, he returned to Scandinavia with his young family and ultimately secured a position in IT sales. The demands of his new job, on the heels of many years of stress, took a toll on his health, and he fell into a severe depression. It was during this difficult time that he began to draw and paint, inspired by Edvard Munch's philosophy that we should all write or paint our life story.

In 2002, David had his first exhibit in his new hometown of Moss, Norway. Over the years since, he has pursued a career in art, participating in many group exhibits and annual solo gallery shows. He was also awarded several public art commissions in Hvaler, Norway, and Skagen, Denmark. In 2007 David completed a series of Auschwitz-Birkenau paintings in honor of his grandmother, who was a survivor. One of the pieces was acquired by the Mizel Museum in Denver, Colorado. More recently, *delete para break*

David has embarked on several study trips to New York City, Prague, and Amsterdam. In October 2014, he was accepted to work at the prestigious printmaking studio Estudi de Gravat Ignasi Aguirre Ruiz in Barcelona under master printer Ignacio, who has worked with a number of renowned artists, including Dali, Tapies, and Miro. For his etchings, David primarily uses aquatint, drypoint, or carborundum.

When painting, he uses either oil on canvas or gouache on paper. He loves the difference between these techniques. "Working with oils is like taking a long mountain expedition," he says, "while working with etchings is like climbing without a rope. One mistake and you're dead!"

In 2010, David earned international acclaim by founding Twitter Art Exhibit, a social media initiative whereby artists from around the world send hand-painted postcards that are exhibited for local charities in need of funding. This annual event has gone global, taking place in such cities as Los Angeles, Orlando, and New York City. The 2017 exhibit in Stratford-upon-Avon, England, attracted more than 1,000 artists from 65 countries.

An author as well an artist, David wrote a memoir about his challenges with mental illness: *I'll Run Till the Sun Goes Down: A Memoir about Depression and Discovering Art*. Published by Sandra Jonas Publishing in Boulder, Colorado, the book was released in September 2015. David lives with his wife and two sons in Moss, Norway.

2. The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland's heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.
3. From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. To plan your visit today, enter your postcode at www.nts.org.uk.

