

19 June 2025

ACCLAIMED ARTIST RETURNS TO ABERDEENSHIRE ROOTS FOR MAJOR EXHIBITION AT DRUM CASTLE

- **The National Trust for Scotland's Drum Castle has unveiled 'Paul Furneaux: North by East' a new exhibition of works by the acclaimed Royal Scottish Academician in his native Aberdeenshire.**
- **The exhibition is free to visit and runs until the end of October, where a portion of any sales will support the work of the conservation charity.**
- **A new walled garden border, inspired by one of Furneaux's paintings and created by Drum Castle's Head Gardener, Laurie Daguin, will also be unveiled.**

The National Trust for Scotland is unveiling 'Paul Furneaux: North by East,' a specially curated exhibition of works by the internationally acclaimed printmaker Paul Furneaux RSA, opening from 19 June until late October at Drum Castle, Garden and Estate, near Peterculter, Aberdeenshire.

This marks a special return for Aberdeenshire-born and raised Furneaux, whose father, Jimmy, was a well-loved artist in the city.

Paul is celebrated for his mastery and innovative use of the ancient Japanese woodblock printmaking technique, Mokuhanga, to create abstract works inspired by the landscapes of his native north and travels in East Asia.

Exhibition curator, Professor Dorothy Williams, is looking forward to the launch: "It feels very special to have such a stunning collection of Paul Furneaux's work, spanning 20 years, selected by the artist for the beautiful gallery at Drum Castle.

"Visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy this innovative artwork, influenced by the landscapes of Scotland, Norway and Japan, and shaped by a master of the ancient technique of Mokuhanga."

The Irvine family, owners of Drum Castle for over 650 years until the National Trust for Scotland took over its care, were significant patrons of the arts. The permanent collection boasts works by Van Dyck and Raeburn, alongside pieces by established family artists Hugh Irvine and Anna Margareta Forbes Irvine.

Laurie Cassells, the Trust's Visitor Services Manager at Drum Castle, explains: "Not only is Paul's work strikingly beautiful, but we're excited for visitors to see it in the beautiful historic setting of Drum Castle. Like Paul, many of the Irvines were well travelled in their

search to better understand classical cultures and, in Hugh Irvine's case, combine the ancient techniques and traditions he'd mastered with his Scottish roots."

Drum Castle Head Gardener, Laurie Daguin, has been similarly inspired by the connections between Furneaux's exhibition, Drum's artistic heritage, and the surrounding landscape. Two new beds will be in full bloom this summer, in an ambitious modern design inspired by one of Paul's pieces.

Laurie Daguin says: "Visitors to the historic walled garden at Drum will see an exciting dialogue between art and nature. The plants will bloom brightly over the summer in contrast with the natural materials, mirroring Paul's bold use of colour and striking geometry."

The exhibition is free to visit daily from 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. until 31 October 2025. For more information, visit <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/drum-castle>.

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Notes to Editors:

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/5hbUdUnFkF>

For more information, imagery or interview requests please contact Murray Hope, NE Marketing & Comms Manager – mhope@nts.org.uk

Visiting North by East Exhibition

Visitors can access the exhibition for free throughout regular opening hours via the castle reception. The exhibition has also been incorporated into regular paid castle tours, free to members of The National Trust for Scotland. For more information and advance ticket links visit: [nts.org.uk/visit/places/drum-castle](https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/drum-castle)

About the Artist: Paul Furneaux RSA

A Master Printmaker and highly-regarded authority on printmaking in Scotland, Paul was born in Ellon, Aberdeenshire, in 1962 and studied Drawing and Painting at Edinburgh College of Art (1982-1987). Furneaux undertook a Masters focused on woodblock printmaking at Tama Art University, Tokyo (1998-2000), where he developed his interest in the ancient Mokuhanga printmaking technique which has informed his approach since. Elected to the Royal Scottish Academy in 2006, his accolades include the RSA Salvesen Scholarship, the RSA Gillies Bequest Award and the Hope Scott Trust Award.

More information on the Mokuhanga technique and Paul's process can be found at <https://www.paulfurneaux.com/category/technique-notes>

About Drum Castle, Garden and Estate

Situated just 10 miles from Aberdeen and with links back to Robert the Bruce, the 700 years of history can be seen in Drum's battlements, medieval square tower and ancient

oak woodland.

The castle and walled garden are open daily until 31 August. More information about Drum Castle and how to visit is available at nts.org.uk/visit/places/drum-castle

About the National Trust for Scotland

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland's magnificent heritage.

Over the last 90 years the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022 the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland's heritage which doesn't have a voice, to improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland's heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk. The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.