

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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US in focus for Drum exhibition

A stunning collection of pictures by Harry Benson CBE, one of Scotland's most celebrated photographers, opens this weekend (Saturday 22 April) at the National Trust for Scotland's Drum Castle.

Harry Benson: Seeing America is the product of the Glasgow-born photographer's long career documenting some of the USA's most famous events and people over the last 50 years.

Since the sixties, Benson has photographed every US president (including the current incumbent), and a whole host of famous faces. Amongst the superstars featured in the exhibition are Dolly Parton, Jackie Kennedy and James Brown.

He also witnessed some of the 20th century's most momentous events, including the civil rights movement, anti-Vietnam protests and the aftermath of 9/11 and these emotive images feature prominently throughout.

Harry Benson CBE said:

"I am honored The National Trust for Scotland will host my photographic exhibit "Seeing America" at historic Drum Castle in Aberdeenshire. The exhibit concentrates on photographs taken after I arrived in America with the Beatles in 1964. Curated by my wife, Gigi, and Scottish Parliament's Fiona McDougall, the exhibit first opened at the Scottish Parliament last September. I am glad the photographs will now be in Aberdeenshire where more people will have the opportunity to see them."

The exhibition has been loaned to the National Trust for Scotland, the charity that conserves and promotes Scotland's heritage, by the Scottish Parliament and will be on display at Drum Castle from 22 April until 3 December.

Harry Benson: Seeing America is the latest high profile exhibition to be hosted at historic Drum Castle's bespoke gallery. Created in 2015, the exhibition space was created in a previously unvisited area of the castle, allowing it to host top quality art exhibitions.

Iain Hawkins, the Trust's General Manager for the North East said:

“Over the past few years, Drum Castle has built a reputation for bringing outstanding art to Aberdeenshire, firstly through our partnership with Aberdeen Art Gallery and now with this link up with the Bensons and the Scottish Parliament. These photographs are so powerful and will make a real impression on visitors.”

The 14th-century Tower of Drum is a rare survivor from this period. Together with its Jacobean mansion house and additions by Victorian lairds, Drum Castle is one of Scotland’s most inviting castles.

Inside, enjoy superb furniture and fine paintings. The tower battlements offer magnificent views of the Forest of Drum and the countryside beyond. Outside, explore the beautiful Garden of Historic Roses, woodland trails and a children's playground.

- ENDS -

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Editor’s Notes:

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/on58Y6>

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