

9 September 2024

## **STITCHED PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON CINDERELLA OF ARTWORLD**

A joint exhibition shining a light on the often-overlooked art of embroidery runs in Edinburgh from 25 October 2024 – 18 January 2025.

Taking place at Dovecot Studios, the exhibition features more than 80 pieces from the National Trust for Scotland's collections around the country. Many have never been on public display before.

The exhibition, for the first time, brings together pieces large and small, intricate and practical, into one space. It puts the spotlight firmly on the skills and creativity of the women and girls who worked behind the scenes creating these pieces of art over a 200-year period.

National Trust for Scotland curator Emma Inglis chose the items for the exhibition from the conservation charity's extensive textile collection, which is held at historic properties all over Scotland.

She said: "Embroidery is often considered the Cinderella of the artworld – these are beautiful items which, because they are usually found in domestic settings, have tended to be overlooked.

"By bringing all these pieces together for the first time in a dedicated exhibition, we hope to shine a light on these beautiful pieces and bring them to an audience who will appreciate them as the artworks they are.

"We hope too, to highlight the talent, creativity and skill of the women and girls who made these unique pieces over two centuries."

The exhibition includes items from Newhailes in Musselburgh, Drum Castle and Haddo House in Aberdeenshire, House of the Binns in Linlithgow, the Hill House in Helensburgh and Weaver's Cottage in Kilbarchan.

The range of items on show reflects the variety of women who created them – from the large-scale and luxurious bed cover from Kellie Castle made by the talented Lorimer family to smaller items, like the pin cushion created by farmer's daughter May Sandison, who made pieces for Lady Aberdeen at Haddo House and ran a needlework school for her there.

Emma continued: "For many of these pieces, it is the first time they have ever been displayed. After years of being stored in cupboards and drawers, each piece has had a great deal of attention. It's been carefully researched, its story has been uncovered, along with that of its creator, and any conservation work that was needed has been undertaken too. Everything is now looking its best and is ready to shine, getting the attention artwork of this calibre deserves."

'Stitched: Scotland's Embroidered Art' explores 200 years of the domestic interior in Scotland, examining the art and design of embroidery from the National Trust for Scotland's extraordinary collection of textiles, taken from its properties all over Scotland. The exhibition runs at Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh from 25 October 2024 – 15 January 2025.

Celia Joicey, Dovecot Studios Director, said: "As the UK's longest running tapestry studio, Dovecot is delighted to be showcasing the National Trust for Scotland's remarkable collection of domestic textiles, shown together for the first time in Edinburgh. We celebrate the rich heritage of textile art in Scotland and its continued relevance today by providing an inspiring context in which to see Dovecot's 21st-century artistic tapestries and rugs being made."

National Trust for Scotland members receive a 50% discount on standard entry prices.

Stitched exhibition visitors will receive a 20% discount on standard entry prices for one visit to one of the following National Trust for Scotland's properties - Georgian House and Gladstone's Land in Edinburgh and Newhailes in Musselburgh, valid during the exhibition run on presentation of their Stitched exhibition ticket.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

Additional images can be downloaded here: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/KCps765b75>

#### **About Dovecot Studios**

Dovecot Studios is a world-renowned tapestry studio in the heart of Edinburgh and a landmark centre for contemporary art, craft and design. Established in 1912, Dovecot continues a century-long heritage of collaboration with international artists to make exceptional handwoven tapestries and gun-tufted rugs. In addition to the tapestry studio, Dovecot offers a dynamic program of art, craft, and design exhibitions and events, all aimed at supporting the work of Dovecot Studios and preserving the art of tapestry in Scotland.

#### **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.

Scotland's largest membership organisation, the National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.