

NEWS RELEASE: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014



## Dutch master joins UK design discussions



(L to R: Piet Hein Eek, Lesley Millar, Amanda Game, Annie Pollock, Geoffrey Mann, Alan Shaw, Paul Simmons, Laura Spring)

**Leading Dutch designer Piet Hein Eek will add his voice to the inaugural series of Gayfield Twilight Talks this August and September. The talks bring together contemporary designers, curators and researchers to explore the role and context for design in contemporary Scottish cultural life.**

The talks have been devised by Dr John Ennis, Creative Director of Gayfield Creative Spaces, working with independent curator and Creative Adviser Amanda Game to create the series. The talks represent some key areas impacting on Scotland's design landscape. Themes include quality production, well-being and resource efficiency as they relate to design.

Dr Ennis said, "Scotland is at an exciting time in developing its design presence. Issues of quality and sustainability are to the fore and new design technologies are presenting fresh opportunities for innovative approaches in many areas."

The series of six Gayfield Twilight Talks, supported by Creative Scotland, take place on Thursdays in August and September at various venues in and around Gayfield. Audiences will have the opportunity to ask their own questions of the panel.

Helena Ward, Portfolio Manager at Creative Scotland, said: "Creative Scotland is delighted to support the series of Twilight Talks on design, craft and textiles at Gayfield Creative Spaces. We hope the talks will create opportunities for participants to network and be inspired by design practice and developments here and internationally."

The programme of Twilight Talks is linked to a concurrent series of exhibitions and displays at Gayfield Creative Spaces: India Street, Making Well, and Garden Party.

Dr Ennis concludes, "There exists strong interest in how good design can enhance our well-being and our environment and contribute to wealth creation in local communities. Through our creative collaborations at Gayfield, I hope we can contribute to wider discussion in these areas."

**ENDS**

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Sponsors and support:

Twilight Talks are sponsored by Gayfield Creative Spaces with support from Creative Scotland.

**Creative Scotland** is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. It enables people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. It distributes funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. [www.creativescotland.com](http://www.creativescotland.com)

Gayfield Creative Spaces is delighted to be working with the following partners to deliver Twilight Talks:

**Lyon & Turnbull** – Edinburgh’s premier auction house

**The Yard** – Community garden and resource centre supporting those with autism and their families

**Creative Exchange** – City of Edinburgh Digital Design Hub in Leith

### Dates, times, venues, tickets and contributors:

The **Twilight Talks** series takes place every Thursday from 7<sup>th</sup> August to 11<sup>th</sup> September from 6pm to 8pm at the venues listed. Free tickets can be secured via the Twilight Talks Eventbrite link at [www.gayfield.co.uk](http://www.gayfield.co.uk)

#### 7th August at Lyon & Turnbull – Material Goods: quality and the marketplace

**Paul Simmons** of Timorous Beasties ([www.timorousbeasties.com](http://www.timorousbeasties.com)) and emerging independent textile designer **Laura Spring** ([www.lauraspring.co.uk](http://www.lauraspring.co.uk)) discuss their experience of creating thriving studios through design innovation internationally.

#### 14th August at Lyon & Turnbull – Too Much Stuff: the ecology of design

Leading Dutch designer **Piet Hein Eek** ([www.pietheineek.nl](http://www.pietheineek.nl)) from Eindhoven talks to **Dr John Ennis** about the way design thinking can create a more sustainable model of living. Introduced by **Amanda Game**, Independent Curator and Creative Adviser to Gayfield Creative Spaces.

#### 21st August at The Yard – Garden in Mind: designing for health and well-being

**Annie Pollock** ([www.dementia.stir.ac.uk](http://www.dementia.stir.ac.uk)) and **Celine Sinclair** ([www.theyardscotland.org.uk](http://www.theyardscotland.org.uk)) discuss the role of landscape design in creating health-giving environments. Introduced by leading UK architect **Richard Murphy** OBE.

#### 28th August at Creative Exchange Leith – Digital Counts: progress in design technologies

**Alan Shaw** of CAT, Glasgow ([www.catdigital.co.uk](http://www.catdigital.co.uk)) and **Geoffrey Mann**, designer and Head of Glass at Edinburgh College of Art ([www.mrmann.co.uk](http://www.mrmann.co.uk)), discuss the role of digital tools in the development of their design process. Introduced by **Josie Steed**, Course Leader of Fashion and Textile Design at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.

#### 4th September at Lyon & Turnbull – Cloth and Memory: placemaking and materials in contemporary exhibitions

**Philip Long**, Director of V & A Dundee, introduces and chairs a conversation between leading UK textile curator **Lesley Millar** and independent curator **Amanda Game** on the subject of traditions of cloth making, and textile design, in different cultures, and how that can connect us to both places and memory in ways which animate our experience of daily life. The conversation will be accompanied by a special display of printed textiles by **Professor Norma Starszakowna** – a significant innovator and educator in the field of printed textiles, based in Dundee.

#### 11th September at Gayfield Creative Spaces – The Power of Place: global pictures, local spaces

**Stuart Falconer** of Edinburgh-based GRAS architects ([www.grastudio.co.uk](http://www.grastudio.co.uk)) and **Katy West** ([www.katywest.co.uk](http://www.katywest.co.uk)), curator of India Street, will explore their experience of working with designers and makers from different cultures and the ways in which design can both create international links and highlight local concerns. The event will be chaired by **Dr John Ennis** and will be followed by a special closing reception at the gallery spaces.

### Available for interview:

Dr John Ennis, Creative Director of Gayfield Creative Spaces. Interviews and comments from individual speakers can be arranged via the media contact below.

### Media contact for more information and images:

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