

NUART ABERDEEN

nuartaberdeen.co.uk

14, 15, 16
APRIL
2017

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Brought to you by the team behind Stavanger's internationally renowned Nuart Festival, Nuart Aberdeen will see 11 international street artists descend on The Granite City this April.

Developed in collaboration with Aberdeen Inspired and Aberdeen City Council, Nuart Aberdeen will provide a platform for local, national and international artists to showcase their work through a series of site-specific murals, installations, interventions, and temporary exhibitions.

The festival takes place from Friday 14 – Sunday 16 April (Easter Weekend) and will be supplemented by a program of talks, presentations, film screenings, walking tours and workshops over three days.

Leading the line-up is Scottish-born artist and Venice Biennale participant [Robert Montgomery](#), who just this week was quoted at the prestigious BAFTA Awards ceremony by UK national treasure Stephen Fry.

German duo [Herakut](#), widely regarded as leading lights of the global street art movement, will furnish an Aberdeen landmark with a large-scale mural in their inimitable style, while French artist and filmmaker [Julien de Casabianca](#) brings his participatory art project, Outings, to the city. In collaboration with children from four local schools, De Casabianca will embellish the streets with characters plucked from the archives of the Aberdeen Art Gallery (which is currently closed for renovation until winter 2017).

In Aberdeen's year of 'History, Heritage and Archaeology', Nuart Aberdeen seeks to reveal how Street Art can create an environment for a more imaginative use of public space, something Nuart has been dedicated to realising since its inception in 2001.

“It’s been ten years since we first worked with Martyn Reed and the wonderful Nuart crew, and we returned to Stavanger a second time for Nuart 2011, which was another great experience. When we learned that the festival was moving abroad to Aberdeen, we knew we had to be involved for two reasons: the special way that Nuart is run and then of course, Aberdeen! We have never been ourselves but from what we’ve heard it sounds like we’ll love it.

We better make sure to leave something nice on the awesome wall the Aberdeen team has found for us. Lots of pressure on us now!”

Jasmin Siddiqui and Falk Lehmann
(Herakut)





Adrian Watson, chief executive of Aberdeen Inspired:

"We are hugely excited to be bringing an art festival of this scale and stature to Aberdeen. Nuart is hugely popular in its Stavanger birthplace and it is a huge coup for us to be holding it in our city.

"It is an honour to announce the first three incredibly talented and thought provoking artists that will be taking part in the festival. We are delighted that Julian de Casabianca, Robert Montgomery and Herakut will leave their artistic footprint in Aberdeen and look forward to announcing more names and additions in due course.

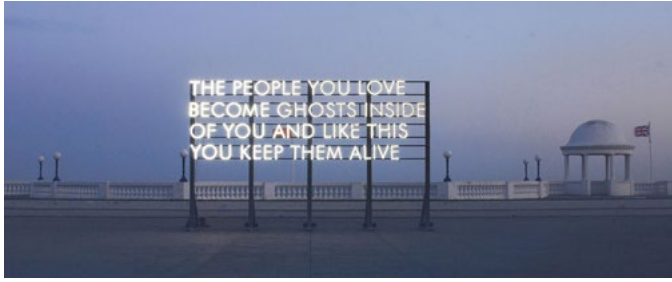
"Nuart is an ambitious project and we are sure it will be embraced by the north-east public. We want to encourage community engagement, make art accessible to all and create talking points in the city, as well as, of course, brightening up neglected spaces in the city centre.

"We can't wait to see what creations will be devised by both our international and local artists and the part Nuart will play in challenging the perceptions of street art. Both the Nuart Festival team and representatives from Aberdeen Inspired have been working incredibly hard on this and we are looking forward to seeing it come to life on walls throughout the heart of Aberdeen."

Note to editors

Aberdeen Inspired is the banner under which the Aberdeen BID (Business Improvement District) operates. It is a business-led initiative within the city centre in which levy payers within the BID zone contribute.

Proceeds are used to fund projects designed to improve the business district. More information on the work of Aberdeen Inspired is available at www.aberdeeninspired.com



ROBERT MONTGOMERY (UK)

Robert Montgomery has been called a vandal, a street artist, a post-Situationist, a punk artist and the 'poets Banksy'. He follows a tradition of conceptual art and is noticeable for bringing a poetic voice to the discourse of text art. Poetic texts form the basis of his wheatpaste artworks, murals, light pieces (recycled sunlight poems), woodcuts and watercolours.

Montgomery showed at the 2011 Venice Biennale and was selected to represent the UK at the first biennale in India - The Kochi-Muziris Biennale - in December 2012. He has also had solo exhibitions at venues in Europe and in Asia, including major outdoor light installations on the site of the old US Air Force base at Tempelhof. The first monograph of his work was published by Distanz, Berlin in 2015.

Originally from Scotland, Montgomery studied at Edinburgh College of Art and then in the core program at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. He has lived in London since 1999.

robermontgomery.org



JULIEN DE CASABIANCA (FR)

Julien de Casabianca is a visual artist, filmmaker and founder of the Outings Project, which has involved him embellishing streets around the world with portraits of characters plucked from classical paintings.

What began as a prank upon seeing Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres's portrait of Mademoiselle Caroline Rivière at the Louvre ("I wanted to help her get out, like Prince Charming trying to rescue the girl in the museum castle" says de Casabianca) has evolved into a full-time mission to merge the perceptions of canonical and street art, all while punctuating neglected spaces with images of beauty.

Each individual appears as if liberated from their institutional home, thus highlighting the strategies employed by street artists in the democratization of art and questioning the received authority of the museum.

outings-project.org



HERAKUT (DE)

Herakut is a symbiosis of the aliases Hera and Akut, two artists from Frankfurt and Erfurt, Germany, who joined forces in 2004. Their creative process, which involves each artist improvising on top of the other, results in heavily stylized artworks that are both sensual and savage.

Heavily narrative-based, Herakut depict imaginary worlds inhabited by a variety of characters and creatures. The contrast between Akut's painstaking photorealism and Hera's more expressive approach often brings about a frenzied aesthetic to their finished pieces.

The duo has exhibited in galleries around the world and their artworks can be found in Toronto, Kathmandu, San Francisco, Melbourne among other cities.

herakut.de



Our second artist announcement includes an open call to local Aberdeen artists to take part in a city-wide public art initiative from Bergen-based artist [Nipper](#).

His 'Mission Directives' project seeks to create alternative zones of communication through the installation of temporary and interactive artworks in Aberdeen's heritage-listed city centre, with local artists invited to showcase their work as part of the project.

Based on the MAKE / TAKE / REPLACE philosophy and social ideals of sharing, creativity and citizen-led communication in public space, artists of all levels are encouraged to get involved and share their work with other artists and the public alike. Paintings, illustrations, collages, drawings, photographs, stencils, watercolours, zines, stickers... all types of work are welcome.

Nipper will be holding two workshops at the Nuart Aberdeen HUB space (Unit 14, The Academy, Belmont Street) on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 April (12:00 – 14:00) and using the hash-tag #missiondirectives to provide hints to the locations of his and other artists original artworks.

Alongside Nipper, we are also delighted to welcome Portugese stencil artist [Add Fuel](#) and one of the world's finest figurative street artists - [Fintan Magee](#) – to the inaugural Nuart Aberdeen.

For more information and daily updates visit:

www.nuartaberdeen.co.uk

www.instagram.com/nuartaberdeen

www.facebook.com/nuartaberdeen



ADD FUEL (PT)

Add Fuel is a Portuguese visual artist and illustrator who reinterprets the language of traditional tile design, in particular the Portuguese ceramic azulejo (glazed tiles).

His technique of revealing and obscuring surfaces beneath or on top of existing structures and walls creates a unique optical illusion effect created through a combination of tessellations. From a distance these vector or stencil-based works appear to be recreating traditional motifs but are in fact brimming with pop and contemporary art references, rendered with a masterful attention to detail. Underpinning Add Fuel's practice is his desire to challenge the viewer to contemplate the history and heritage that lies beneath the facades and pavements of our cities.

To contextualize his street pieces, Add Fuel researches traditional patterns from the region in which he is working. He has been showcasing his work in both solo and group exhibitions since 2006, as well as participating in some of the world's leading urban art events.

addfuel.com



NIPPER (NO)

Nipper is a Bergen-based artist whose Mission Directives project focuses on social ideals of sharing, creativity and citizen-led communication in public space. By questioning who has the power and authority to communicate messages and create meaning in our shared spaces, his work becomes part of a broader conversation of social significance.

At Nuart Aberdeen, Nipper will present his Mission Directives project, which creates alternative zones of communication through the installation of temporary and interactive artworks in Aberdeen city centre. By questioning who has the power and authority to communicate messages and create meaning in our shared spaces - and the public's relationship to their urban environment - Mission Directives becomes part of a broader conversation of social significance.

[instagram.com/nipper_john/](https://www.instagram.com/nipper_john/)



FINTAN MAGEE (AU)

Born in 1985 in Lismore, Australia but of Scottish descent, Fintan Magee is considered one of the world's leading figurative street artists. Transporting the viewer beyond mundane routines and expectations into a world of unexpected beauty and chaotic balance, his paintings highlight the extraordinary nature of our everyday existence.

Magee's large-scale murals create a visual circus of imagery and styles, taken from a wide range of influences, explained best by the artist himself: "Childhood memories and personal experiences inform my work but I also like to link personal experience to broader social issues like climate change or class struggle. In some works I feel like I'm telling stories that I don't yet fully understand however, which brings an element of chaos or the subliminal."

fintanmagee.com



Nuart Aberdeen's penultimate artist announcement includes interventionist **Isaac Cordal**; one of Italy's leading stencil artists – **Alice Pasquini** – and Polish artist **M-City**, for whom his first trip Scotland holds particular significance.

For Nuart Aberdeen, M-City will create a two-part mural on the wall of Robert Gordon's College – an institution named after the 17th-century merchant and philanthropist, Robert Gordon.

Having settled in Gdansk in the late 17th century, Robert Gordon established himself as a merchant trader before returning to Aberdeen a very wealthy man; wealth he used to pay for the construction of Robert Gordon's College.

Emphasising the close historical links between the two cities, Gdansk (where M-City is from) is home of two suburbs named Nowe Szkoty (New Scotland) and Stary Szkoty (Old Scotland). The latter area is where M-City actually made his first ever stencil piece...setting him on his way to becoming an internationally-renowned street artist.

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ISAAC CORDAL (ES)

Isaac Cordal is a Spanish artist who since 2006 has placed miniature sculptures in public places around the world as part of an on-going series called Cement Eclipses.

Made with cement and reproduced using silicone molds, Cordal's figurines are arranged in scenes that capture the absurdity of human existence through the simple act of miniaturization and site-specific placement. Embodying the spirit of guerrilla street art, little by little Cordal's characters transform the urban environment in its natural habitat.

Born in 1974 in Pontevedra, Spain, Isaac graduated in Sculpture from the University of Fine Arts Pontevedra before dedicating the next five years of his life to studying the conservation of stone crafts at the School of Canteiros, also in Pontevedra. He is a founding member of Alg-a.org, a digital art community from Galicia, and member of the artist collectives Ludd34560 and Sr. Pause.

cementeclipses.com



ALICE PASQUINI (IT)

Alice Pasquini is a multimedia artist from Rome whose affectionate street art explores the brighter side of human relationships. Pasquini's art revolves around the topics of femininity, encompassing murals, paintings, and illustrations which tell stories about various acts of kindness and love.

Street artist, painter, illustrator and set designer, Alice has developed a multitude of artistic expressions, from narrative-based, pastel-toned murals to her most recent series of installations created from found materials.

A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome, Alice obtained an MA in critical art studies from the Universidad Computense before spending time in Great Britain, France, and Spain developing her practice. Sydney, New York, Barcelona, Oslo, Moscow, Paris, Copenhagen, Marrakech, Berlin, Saigon, London, and Rome are some of the cities where her work can be found.

alicepasquini.com



M-CITY (PL)

M-City is an artist and Lecturer at the Academy of Art in Szczecin, Poland. He is best-known for his large-scale, industrial-themed murals, which involve piecing together hundreds of carefully cut stencils to create a coherent imagined cityscape.

M-city's fascination with industrial spaces and their surroundings is present throughout his work, having spent his childhood among the factories, hydroelectric plants, chimneys and cranes of Gdansk, Poland.

An incredibly prolific and methodical painter, he has produced work up to 85 meters long and notched up over 700 pieces to his M-City project alone, including several in Stavanger on previous trips to Nuart Festival.

m-city.org



Completing the Nuart Aberdeen line-up, our final artist announcement includes Oslo-based stencil artist [Martin Watson](#) and Belgian interventionist [Jaune](#), whose participation comes as part of Nuart's on-going collaboration with The Crystal Ship Festival in Ostend, Belgium.

Jaune will receive the freedom of Aberdeen to produce his humorous and thought-provoking installations and paintings, while in Ostend Nuart returns the favour by inviting figurative artist Henrik Uldalen (NO) to produce only his third ever outdoor mural in Belgium.

About the partnership, The Crystal Ship curator Bjørn Van Poucke, said:

"Nuart's impact on our vision and goals, both on a creative and professional level, is not to be underestimated. Although The Crystal Ship and Nuart have their own unique identities, we find common ground in the fact that we look to curate artists in a way that avoids pigeonholing the Street Art genre.

Nuart has always been the cool kid on the block, a festival we have looked up to for over a decade, and it is a true honour to work alongside them."

The Crystal Ship Festival opens in Ostend on Saturday 8 April: www.thecrystalship.org

Need to refresh your memory about the 14 artists participating in Nuart Aberdeen? Check out the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSOQyvcbSCM>

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JAUNE (BE)

Jaune is a stencil artist and urban interventionist whose work is based on the paradox between the visible and the invisible. Sanitation workers (Jaune's ex-profession) are the protagonists in his humorous installations and paintings, which find these unsung heroes of our everyday lives elevated to the role of mischief-makers in chief.

Despite performing an important public service in garish fluorescent clothing, Jaune observed that he and his colleagues existed in the background of our urban environment, becoming almost invisible to the average person. It was in 2011 that he decided to address this imbalance by symbolically placing miniature versions of his colleagues in ever more absurd and whimsical scenarios in and around the city streets.

Those who were supposed to keep the world tidy have become harbingers of chaos. At the same time, Jaune encourages us re-evaluate our relationship with the individuals represented in his work.

art-of-jaune.com



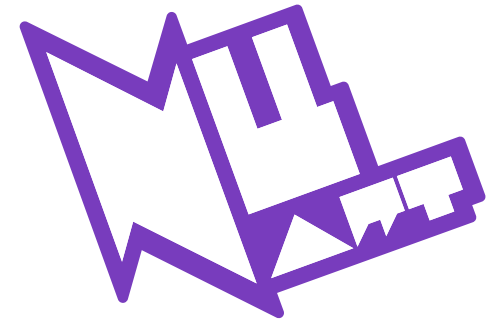
MARTIN WHATSON (NO)

Norwegian born and based artist Martin Whatson first started producing his unique brand of stencil art in 2004. While studying Art and Graphic Design at the Westerdals School of Communication in Oslo he developed a strong interest in graffiti and street art, ultimately combining them to create his distinctive and hugely popular visual style.

Inspired by artists such as Jose Parlá and Cy Twombly, who also deal with themes of temporality, Martin creates urban scenes that demonstrate the development of a wall's lifetime. He uses monochrome tones combined with vibrant abstract graffiti to bring depth and colour to concrete walls and break the monotony of our urban environment.

Since his artistic debut in 2004, Martin has had several solo shows and participated in many group exhibitions, both nationally and in international metropolises like Tokyo, Paris, London, New York and Los Angeles.

martinwhatson.com



Add Fuel (PT)
Alice Pasquini (IT)
Fintan Magee (AU)
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Jaune (BE)
Julien de Casabianca (FR)
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Martin Whatson (NO)
Nipper (NO)
Robert Montgomery (UK)