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**Press Release for Immediate Release: Exhibition**

**Date of issue: 2 November 2010**

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## **Sedition**

### **An Uprising of Cumbrian Contemporary Artists**

**Tullie House Art Gallery  
Until 28 November  
Admission Free**



***“See this exhibition before it closes and smell the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century”***

**Conrad Atkinson**

Representing work by 24 artists living and working in Cumbria, Tullie House's current exhibition, *Sedition*, has been designed to celebrate the most challenging and innovative work being produced in the county.

Seen by over 2,500 people in its first four weeks, one visitor claimed that the exhibition was ***‘Better than sex’***. Others said ***‘Forward thinking, mind-blowing, far-out man! A stimulation for the senses and the mind’***; ***‘Outstanding concepts. A big thank you to Cumbrian artists. Keep up the good work’***; ***‘Contemporary art in Carlisle – AT LAST. But is Carlisle up to it??’***

*Sedition* has provoked a lively debate about the value of a pluralistic contemporary art scene in a county that relies heavily upon the history of Romanticism in promoting itself to the world. Christian Barnes, Director of Vista Projects (UK) Ltd and one of the artists represented in *Sedition*, says:

***“We live and work in an environment where the cultural asset value of heritage is thought to be placed at risk by the celebration of contemporary culture and any departure from received ideas about the narrative of the place is regarded as 'sedition'... It has been good to take part in the only show in the last decade put together by the only public art gallery in Cumbria looking to connect and work with artists who live here, whose local identity is important to them, but who have different and more challenging views of what their work should be than fodder for tourists.”***

At a time when arts organisations throughout the country face significant funding cuts, *Sedition* could not have been realised without the support of the exhibiting artists and the wider arts community, who gave their time freely and generously to the exhibition. In the words of Conrad Atkinson, an internationally-renowned artist born in Cumbria and tireless champion of the arts in the region:

***“Sedition is a vibrant, provocative and yes, seditious assemblage of Cumbrian art and artists. Beware..... it is filled with simple and complex ideas. A show to squeeze your brain; open your mind; change your eyes. Rewardingly, most were trained at the University of Cumbria.***

***...These artists and many other fine Cumbrian artists, who work only for expenses and no fee, are central to the sensibility of a radical Cumbria and its future. Artists in the UK have for years been the practitioners of the ‘Big Society’.***

***See this exhibition before it closes and smell the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In these difficult times our quality of life is a central issue and culture, not cash, is at its heart. This cutting edge exhibition affirms that culture is central to our identity as a county and it tells us that ideas are important and change is possible.”***

Robert Williams, Principal Lecturer and Programme Leader in Fine Art at the University of Cumbria commented:

***“Once in a while ... there are exhibitions in regional centres like Oxford, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Newcastle or Glasgow that make those in our illustrious capital take note of the provinces. Out here, and perhaps reflecting the independent heritage of Carlisle, we find Sedition at Tullie House. Whilst it might be a surprise to the rest of the country, it is no surprise to us in the County, the City, and the University, to find such a range of incisive, critically relevant and edgy contemporary art happening here, at the Edge of Empire ... After all, whilst we were part of Cumbria Institute of the Arts, now the University of Cumbria, we have helped to nurture the potential, the raw skill, intelligence, breadth and depth of practice of well over half the artists in this exhibition. In these times of economic stricture it is clearly vital that exhibitions like Sedition, and institutions like Tullie House and the University of Cumbria continue to focus on the important contribution of artists to the cultural life of our regions. Contributions which serve to confront stereotypes, that question received wisdom and which have clearly, never been needed more than now.”***

To contribute to the debate, Tullie House is inviting visitors to a series of artists’ illustrated talks and a discussion entitled **‘When Did Local Become a Dirty Word?’** as part of the closing celebrations on Saturday 27 November. Tickets cost £4 (£2 concessions) and can be booked through Tullie House Box Office on 01228 618700. Featuring presentations by Sedition artists Russell Mills, Christian Barnes, Patricia Townsend and Rebecca Mellor, this event forms part of an intensive events programme running throughout the exhibition, organised by Tullie House, the artists and other Cumbrian arts organisations.

Other highlights include **‘Modus Operandi Agrestis’** on Thursday 11 November, a one day symposium organised by FreeRangeArtists Ltd, discussing the unique opportunities and challenges faced by creative enterprises and individual practitioners working outside the metropolis. And, on Saturday 20 November, Carlisle-based artists are collaborating to organise **Carlisle City Open Studios Day**, on

which date studio doors throughout Carlisle are opened wide and visitors are invited in to see working studios in practice and to witness the diverse talents of practitioners in the region. Full details of all November events at Tullie House and organised to coincide with Sedition are given below.

For visitors unable to make it to Carlisle, Tullie House also now offers an impressive 'virtual walkthrough' of Sedition on its website, or you can simply follow the link:

[http://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/sedition/360\\_sedition.html](http://www.tulliehouse.co.uk/sedition/360_sedition.html)

**Image: © Lesli Sharples: *Sul Governo Mondiale (On World Government)***

Ends

An electronic version of the Sedition Exhibition Guide, which includes information about each of the artists and a full list of events, is now available to download from our Press Page. A selection of publicity images can also be found here. To obtain access to the Press Page, please contact Judith Streatfeild at Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery on 01228 618743 / [judiths@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:judiths@carlisle.gov.uk)

To request interviews with any of the artists or selectors, or for further information about *Sedition*, please contact Fiona Venables on 01228 618734 / [fionav@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:fionav@carlisle.gov.uk) or Amy Walker on 01228 618774 / [amyw@carlisle.gov.uk](mailto:amyw@carlisle.gov.uk)

**Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery**  
Castle Street, Carlisle, CA3 8TP  
T: 01228 618718  
[www.tulliehouse.co.uk](http://www.tulliehouse.co.uk)

**Art Gallery Opening Times**  
10am – 5pm Monday – Saturday, 12pm – 5pm Sunday  
From November, Art Gallery closes at 4pm daily

**ADMISSION FREE**

**Notes to Editors:**

**1. The Artists**

A full list of Sedition artists is as follows:

Kit Abramson, Christian Barnes, Kate Gilman Brundrett, Kevin Carr & Michael Cumming, Di Clay, Caroline Dalton, Jane Dudman, Derek Eland & Richard Wainman, Linda Fitzgerald, Maggie Hall, Kit Mead, Gerard McGlade, Rebecca Mellor, Monica Metsers, Russell Mills, David Morris, Stuart James Cree Parker, Lesli Sharples, Hannah Stewart, Patricia Townsend and Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson

**2. Sedition Events**

A full list of future events coinciding with Sedition and taking place both in Tullie House and elsewhere follows:

## **TULLIE HOUSE EVENTS**

**Saturday 13 November, 1pm onwards**

**The Long Thread: A durational performance by Di Clay & Jane Dudman**

Tullie House Art Gallery. Free admission; no booking required

**Saturday 20 November, 1pm – 3pm**

**Art Therapy: Miles Blake's Subjective Objective System**

SOS card-reading for those seeking art advice and guidance with Gerard McGlade

Tullie House Art Gallery. Free admission; no booking required

**Saturday 27 November, 1pm – 6pm**

**When did local become a dirty word?**

A series of short artists' illustrated talks with Russell Mills, Christian Barnes, Patricia Townsend and Rebecca Mellor, followed by a discussion about regionalism in contemporary art practice

Tullie House Lecture Theatre. Tickets £4 (£2 concessions)

For further information and to book, please call Tullie House Box Office on 01228 618700

**Saturday 27 November, 4pm**

**Departure: A performance by Di Clay**

NB: The performance will take place between 'When did local become a dirty word?' talks.

Tullie House Art Gallery. Free admission; no booking required

**Saturday 27 November, 7pm – 9pm**

**A Seditious Farewell: Closing Party**

A special evening of art and performances featuring a live performance by 'Hooks 'n' Crooks', the self-proclaimed purveyors of 'scumbag rock 'n' roll' with Greg Hadlow (bass/vocals), Paul Wilson (drums), Terry Nelson (guitar/vocals) and Seditious artist Gerard McGlade (vocals/guitar). The evening also includes a prop-based performance by the interdisciplinary artist, Rebecca Mellor.

Tullie House Art Gallery. Free admission; no booking required. Pay bar available

## **Related Events**

**3 July – 30 October**

**Forward to Far**

An Exhibition of recent works by Russell Mills + Ian Walton

Armitt Museum & Library, Rydal Road, Ambleside

For details, go to [www.armitt.com](http://www.armitt.com)

**8 September – 17 December**

**Your Future Needs You**

An exhibition featuring work by Patricia Townsend

Art Gene, Bath Street, Barrow-in-Furness

For details, go to [www.artgene.co.uk](http://www.artgene.co.uk)

**21 September – 27 November 2010**

**Uncertainty in the City**

An exhibition of work by Snæbjörnsdóttir/Wilson

Storey Gallery, Meeting House Lane, Lancaster

For details, go to [www.storeygallery.org.uk](http://www.storeygallery.org.uk)

**Thursday 11 November, 11am – 4pm**

**Modus Operandi Agrestis**

A symposium organised by FreeRangeArtists Ltd.

Tullie House Lecture Theatre

Tickets £10. To book, please contact Tullie House Box Office on 01228 618700

For further details, go to [www.freerangeartists.co.uk/modus](http://www.freerangeartists.co.uk/modus)

**Saturday 20 November, 10am – 4pm**

**Carlisle City Open Studios Day**

To coincide with *Sedition*, Carlisle-based artists are collaborating to organise a one day only city-wide Open Studios Initiative, inviting visitors in to view their work and to see working studios in practice. Offering a wealth of wide-ranging contemporary practices, the studios will demonstrate an array of art forms and media: celebrating the diverse talents of practitioners in this region, from both emerging and internationally recognised individuals. Studios opening their doors are outlined below.

Please note: many of the studios have no disabled access.

For further information, including updates of other participating groups see link:

[www.carlisleartistgroups.blogspot.com](http://www.carlisleartistgroups.blogspot.com)

**West Walls Studio Group**

Artists, illustrators and writers including: Rosie Alcock, Dave Chappell, Caroline Dalton, Anne Duffy, Roger Galloway- Smith, Mark Gibbs, Rachael Gibson, Olga Kaliszer, Pui Lee, Renuka Saxena, Lesley Smith, Hannah Stewart, Sue Stockwell, and Paul Taylor.

1st Floor, Enterprise Centre (opposite swimming pool), James Street, Carlisle

[www.westwallsstudios.co.uk](http://www.westwallsstudios.co.uk)

**Yard Studios**

Artists and Makers including: Cat Archibald, Jenni Bircher, Laura Harrison, Allison Lynn, Paul Murphy and Cazz Nash.

16A Fisher Street, Carlisle

**The Bank Collective**

Artists including members of The Bank Collective.

The Bank, above the Griffin pub, Court Square, Carlisle

**Weft Studios**

Mhairi McGhie Hannah Milburn and invited practitioners

1 Finkle Street, Carlisle

[www.weft-studio.co.uk](http://www.weft-studio.co.uk)

**Saturday 20 November**

**MAP Live Evening, 8pm till late**

Another exciting and stimulating programme of performance art organised by Matrix Art Projects, including performances by Wladyslaw Kazmierczak and Ewa Rybska, Carole Luby, Kate Stobbart and others. As part of the evening, West Walls Studio Group also hope to create *Participatory Tableaux*, a series of living 'Masterpieces'.

Source Cafe, Nelson Street, Carlisle

For full information about the evening, go to [www.matrixartprojects.org](http://www.matrixartprojects.org)