

Willow sculptures in The City Art Centre – and you can learn too!

A whole floor of Edinburgh's City Art Centre is set to become a willow wonderland this winter thanks to an exciting exhibition by one of Scotland's most high profile and multi-award winning willow artists.

Spirit of Air, from 20 November 2010 to 27 February 2011, presents a new body of dramatic willow works by Dumfriesshire-based Lizzie Farey, who cultivates the willow for her artwork herself.

The free exhibition on the fourth floor will include a range of new artworks created especially for the City Art Centre show, and there will also be a number of smaller-scale willow pieces available to buy in the gallery's shop.

Another major piece by the artist, which was commissioned by the City Art Centre earlier this year, has been on display in the Market Street venue since it reopened in July. This piece, Aerie, adorns a large wall space on the gallery's third floor and will remain on show until Spring 2011.

Councillor Deidre Brock, Culture and Leisure Convenor, said: "Lizzie Farey is an outstandingly accomplished willow artist and basketmaker and we're extremely pleased to be hosting this wonderful selection of her works at the City Art Centre."

Speaking about what inspires her art, Lizzie said: "I respond to the events in my life by making aerial and wall sculptures. Using willow as a medium for drawing I find a freedom to let my thoughts and emotions fly. Emerging themes that re-occur are flight, relationships and nature."

An illustrated publication accompanies the exhibition. Spirit of Air is a partnership project with the Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries, and is supported by Creative Scotland (formerly Scottish Arts Council).

In conjunction with the exhibition, Lizzie will also be delivering two intensive willow masterclasses. Details below.

Expressive Willow Masterclasses

Sat 15 January and Sat 26 February, 10am to 4pm

Led by Lizzie Farey, these masterclasses are aimed at those who wish to explore using willow as an expressive art form. Cost £50 per class, includes tuition, all materials, tea and coffee.

Numbers are strictly limited, so advance booking is essential. Please contact Margaret Findlay on 0131 529 3963 or email: margaret.findlay@edinburgh.gov.uk