

Scottish Portrait Gallery photography exhibition funded for three years



THE ROBERT MAPPLETHORPE FOUNDATION FUNDS PHOTOGRAPHY SPACE

The National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) is delighted to announce that The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation has made a major donation to the new Photography Gallery in the refurbished Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh. The charity is giving a total of \$300,000 (£190,000) over the next three years, which will be used to support new displays, exhibitions, research and related publications.

The Photography Gallery, which is the first purpose-built photography space of its kind in a major museum in Scotland, will now be called The Robert Mapplethorpe Photography Gallery after the renowned American photographer. The Foundation has supported the NGS in the past with assistance on the major retrospective of the artist's work at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in 2006, and through its assistance in helping to create a major holding of Mapplethorpe in ARTIST ROOMS, a collection of modern and contemporary art owned jointly by Tate and the National Galleries of Scotland and established through The Anthony d'Offay Donation in 2008.

John Leighton, Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland said:- "The photography collections at the NGS count among the finest anywhere in the world. This extremely generous grant from the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation will help us to unlock the potential of these holdings and create new and engaging displays of international quality. We are enormously grateful to the Mapplethorpe Trustees for helping us to bring world-class photography to a wider audience in

this country.”

Michael Ward Stout, President of The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation said:- “Our board of directors is delighted to have the opportunity to further the goals of such a distinguished facility of the National Galleries of Scotland, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. After getting to know the NGS, and its very impressive Director, John Leighton, we can think of no better European presence for our engagement.”

The exhibitions planned for The Robert Mapplethorpe Photography Gallery include a display devoted to the work of Czech photographer, Jitka Hanzlová (17 October 2012 to 3 February 2013) and an exhibition of work by Edith Tudor-Hart. This will be the first full retrospective of the photography of Edith Tudor-Hart, one of the most significant documentary photographers of the 1930s. Bringing together work shot in Vienna, London, Wales and Scotland, it will bring to light some of the most powerful photography of the Depression era and explore the double life of Tudor-Hart as photographer and Soviet agent.