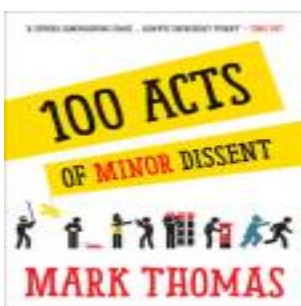


# Friday in Edinburgh – What's On Today


✘ **Edinburgh Art Festival Curators' Tours – Kwang Young Chun: Aggregations.** Dovecot Gallery's Exhibition Curator **Kate Grenyer** tours the Aggregations exhibition and talks about the inspiration behind the Korean artist's mulberry paper assemblages. 11am, [Dovecot Studios](#), Infirmary Street. Free and unticketed.


**Edinburgh Book Fringe starts today!** Daily events – all of them free (donations appreciated) for two weeks at **Word Power Books**, Edinburgh's independent radical bookshop. For tonight's opening event campaigning comedian **Mark Thomas** discusses **100 Acts of Minor Dissent**, his brilliant account of one year spent living provocatively. 7.30pm, [Word Power Books](#), West Nicolson Street. All welcome! No booking required, but arrive promptly as space is limited.



✘ **Record Breakers End of Challenge Parties!** Come along and celebrate your reading over the summer. 11.30am for 5-8 years, 2.30pm for 9-12 years, [Corstorphine Library](#), Kirk Loan. **Booking is essential** as places are limited: please contact the

library on 0131 529 5506 or call in in advance and speak to the staff.

**Ritzfrolic:** an evening of poetry and discussion inspired by  the sculptures of the late **John Chamberlain** and his use of puns, wordplay and poetic language in the naming of his works. **Inverleith House** and the **Scottish Poetry Library** present an evening of poetry and discussion with poet and Reader in English Literature (University of Glasgow), **Jane Goldman** and **Alistair Rider**, Lecturer in Modern Art (University of St Andrew's). 6.30-9pm, Inverleith House, [Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh](#), Inverleith Row. Tickets cost £5/£4 (transaction fee applies) and may be obtained via eventbrite [here](#). The RBGE's exhibition of John Chamberlain's sculptures continues until 5th October 2015.

 **North Edinburgh Arts: KITES!** Come along to NEA's workshop at the park and find out how to transform plastic bags into kites – and fly them! For all ages. 1-3pm, [West Pilton Park](#), West Pilton Avenue. All welcome – for more information please contact NEA on 0131 315 2151. If you have any spare plastic bags, please drop them off at NEA reception in advance.

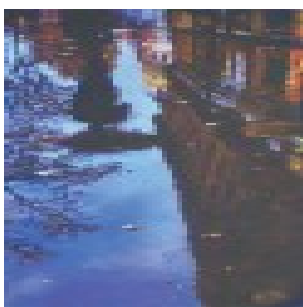


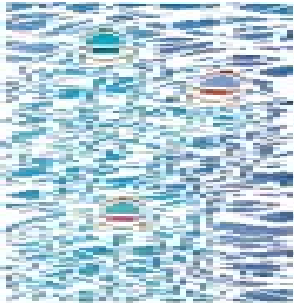
**Festival of Politics 2015:** a three-day programme of exhibitions, debates and films, featuring respected figures from the worlds of media, politics, academia and the arts. Exhibitions on display throughout the weekend look at the Anti-Apartheid movement, cartoonists' interpretations of the independence debate (**The Auld Acquaintance**), sounds created by different areas of the Parliament and its inhabitants (**Democratic Resonance 2013-2015**), plus **Michael Peto Photography – Politics in Focus**, and the **2015 World Press Photography Awards**. On Saturday the **Festival Youth Cafe** will offer free workshops in **vlogging**, **performance poetry**, **film-making** and **cartooning**, and a session with acclaimed author **Cathy McPhail**. On both Saturday and Sunday there will be free

live music and performances in the **Festival Cafe Bar**, which will be serving drinks and Scottish delicacies. Today's debates are ***Scotland and Slavery, What does your Commonwealth do for You?*** and ***The Democratic Challenge***, and today's film is ***12 Years A Slave (15)***. Starts 4.30pm today, [The Scottish Parliament](#), Holyrood; ends 9.30pm, Sunday 16th August 2015. For more information, details of all debates and films, and to book tickets, see the festival's website [here](#): ticket prices vary – all exhibitions are free, and the World Press Awards and Michael Peto exhibitions will remain open until 22nd August 2015 (10am-5pm Monday to Saturday only).

✘ **Edinburgh Art Festival Explorers Free Summer Art Workshops:** for children in the age group P1-P4. 10.30am-4.30pm, [Central Library](#), George IV Bridge. Booking is required and may be made by emailing [alchemyarts@gmail.com](mailto:alchemyarts@gmail.com) or calling 07853 872 073.

**St Mary's Cathedral Tours:** free tours of Scotland's largest ✘ cathedral, a renowned masterpiece of Victorian Gothic architecture, designed by **Sir George Gilbert Scott**. 2.15pm today and every Friday in August, [St Mary's Cathedral](#) (meet inside West Door), Palmerston Place. Free. Also at 10am each Tuesday in August.






**Riccio Gallery: Michael P Young, Diane Young and Rhona Petrie.** A new exhibition of paintings and jewellery. Preview tonight 7-9pm, then 10am-4pm Monday to Saturday, [Riccio Gallery](#), 17 South Street, Dalkeith. Ends 9th September 2015.



**Maps for Family and Local History:** find out how maps can help you with your research. Learn about the range of historical maps held by the **National Library of Scotland** and the information they provide; a tour of the **Maps Reading Room** will be included. 2pm, [Maps Reading Room](#), 159 Causewayside. Booking is essential and may be made by calling 0131 623 3734 or online [here](#). For more information about this workshop please email [maps@nls.uk](mailto:maps@nls.uk).

**Blackwell's Edinburgh and Mariscat Press Present Jackie  Kay:** the launch of a new pamphlet by one of Scotland's most loved poets. Jackie Kay was born and brought up in Scotland; she writes poetry and fiction for adults and children. Jackie's first poetry collection *The Adoption Papers* won the Forward Prize, a Saltire Award and a Scottish Arts Council Book Award, and she has won numerous awards for her writing since, including the MBE in 2006. 6.30pm, [Blackwell's](#), South Bridge. Free tickets may be obtained from the shop's front desk, by calling 0131 622 8222, emailing [events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk](mailto:events.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk) or via eventbrite [here](#).



**Rome in Fact and Fantasy: Dr James Lawson** (University of Edinburgh) discusses artists' depictions – and conjurings up –

of the eternal city, focusing on **David Roberts' *Sunset from the Convent of Sant' Onofrio on the Janiculum* (1856)**. 12.45-1.30pm, Hawthornden Lecture Theatre, [Scottish National Gallery](#), The Mound. Free and unticketed.



Image (c) Neil  
Hanna

**Phill Jupitus: Sketch Comic at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.** The legendary stand-up, poet and sketchman returns for another three weeks of digital drawing, chat and mirth. Each morning Phill will select and sketch (on an iPad) a favourite of his from the gallery collection. Come and watch, chat with Phill and join in on your own iPad or sketchbook – make and share your own sketches. Phill's work will be posted on **Facebook** and **Twitter** each day and you are encouraged to post yours too. Phill will be at a different gallery each week; today he moves to the **Scottish National Portrait Gallery**. Wednesdays will be special **Sketch Comic for Kids** sessions, but grown-ups are still welcome to come along. On Thursday evenings Phill will host a special in-conversation event with a different special guest each time – see listing. 10am-12 noon today and every day until 20th August, [Scottish National Portrait Gallery](#), 1 Queen Street. Free and unticketed.

**Relics, Curiosities and Councillors: how Edinburgh got its museums.** **Nico Tyack** delves into the depths of the City Corporation's archives to uncover how Edinburgh got its own museum, funded by the people for the people. Expect outraged citizens, mysterious goings-on behind closed doors, magnanimous councillors and a sharpened blade or two, all set against the backdrop of glorious **Huntly House**. For adults. 10.30am, [Museum of Edinburgh](#), Huntly House, 142 Canongate. Tickets cost £5/£3.50 and must be booked in advance via the [Usher Hall Box Office](#), in person, by calling 0131 228 1155 or

online [here](#).

**Michael Branagh:** a new art exhibition. Launch tonight with refreshments, 7.30pm, [Sofi's](#), Henderson Street, then during usual opening hours.

