

Five things you need to know today

Monarchs of the Glen



PHOTO Jane Barlow Sir Edwin Landseer, Monarch of the Glen. Oil on canvas. Purchased by the National Galleries of Scotland as a part gift from Diageo Scotland Ltd, with contributions from

The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Dunard Fund, Art Fund, the William Jacob Bequest, the Tam O' Shanter Trust, the Turtleton Trust, and the K. T. Wiedemann Foundation, Inc. and through public appeal, 2017.

Christopher Baker, author and curator, talks all things 'Monarch of the Glen' with Dovecot Studios Director, Celia Joicey on 15 January.

This conversation is a chance to gain a unique perspective on how Baker curated the four walls of Dovecot's Tapestry Balcony Gallery to celebrate the cultural significance of Edwin Landseer's *The Monarch of the Glen*. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of Landseer's death, Baker highlights how reproductions of *The Monarch of the Glen* have been used for numerous agendas, ranging from the celebratory and political, to the comic and subversive.

There will be an opportunity to ask Christopher Baker questions at the end of the session and *The Monarch of the Glen* book by Christopher Baker will also be available to purchase at the Dovecot shop.

Tickets £12.50

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At the Fruitmarket Gallery

Last chance to see **Zarina Bhimji** *Flagging it up* which ends on 28 January 2024.

British artist Zarina Bhimji makes photographs, films and installations which engage with themes such as institutional power and subjectivity.

Her work grows from observation and felt sense and is rooted in a careful use of colour and light. Embracing slippages and ambiguities, it is evocative rather than descriptive or documentary in its pace, setting and mood. This exhibition spans Bhimji's career and includes a newly commissioned film, *Blind Spot* (2023).

If you can't make it to see the exhibition, watch the [Exhibition Walkthrough](#).

[Zarina Bhimji Exhibition Walk through](#) from [Fruitmarket](#) on [Vimeo](#).

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the Edinburgh Reporter

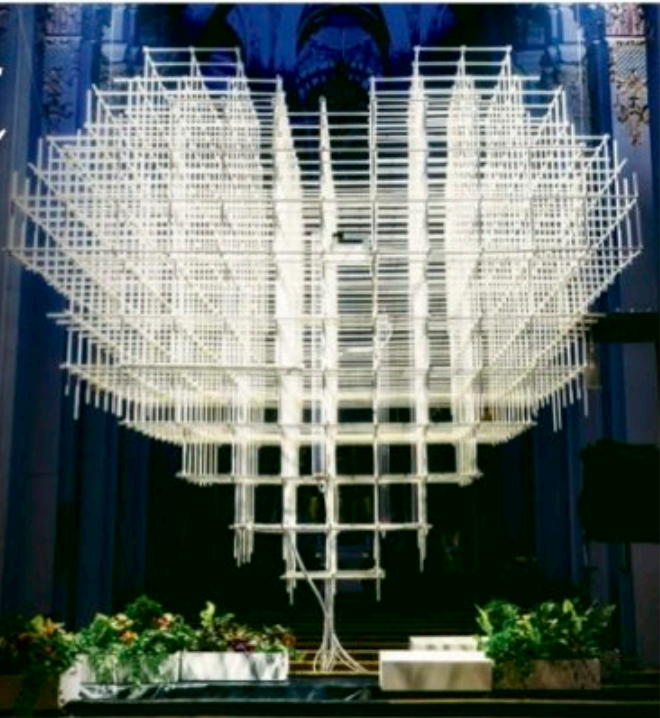
January 2024

EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER...A CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH

Heart and soul



Gifted German artist Michael Pendry to once again transform St Giles' with his newest masterpiece



By PHYLIS STEPHEN

A NEW PUBLIC sculpture created by German artist Michael Pendry, will be sited in St Giles' Cathedral later this month. 'HEART' makes its UK premiere in the

capital in a collaboration between the Burns&Beyond Festival and the St Giles' 900th.

The anniversary marks the founding of the cathedral, to be celebrated with events throughout 2024. This year HEART will light up the

cathedral with the very symbol of life itself, a new three-dimensional work measuring five metres tall, will transform the space with a ticketed evening illumination and soundscape for visitors. The installation will take ten days to build and will be a central part of

the Burns&Beyond Festival which takes place in the city from 25 January to 11 February. What better symbol for the festival which takes its inspiration from Robbie Burns and promotes 'Luv, hope and Kindness', than a heart?

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Council resumes this week

Business will include the Policy and Sustainability Committee on Tuesday and the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) meeting on Thursday morning.

TEC now meets monthly to cope with the large agenda it has to cover.

- [Papers for the Policy and Sustainability Committee can be found here.](#)
- [Papers for TEC here.](#)

Scottish Parliament – MSPs are back at work

The parliament reconvenes today with the prospect of a General Election this year looming large.

One of the end of year announcements made by the parliament's Finance and Public Administration Committee at the end of last year was that there will be a formal inquiry into the number and remit of Scotland's Commissioners.

Scotland currently has seven commissioners directly responsible to Parliament. An eighth – the Patients Safety Commissioner – was agreed by Parliament in September 2023.

A further six commissioners have been proposed, or are being considered, that could potentially bring the total number to 14 by the end of this five-year session of Parliament.

Finance and Public Administration Committee Convener [Kenneth Gibson](#) said: "Seven commissioners cost £16.6m, according to budget figures for 2023/24. Each office comes with its own staff and its own running costs. The smallest cost £0.3m and the largest £6.7m. More are being proposed, or considered, by both the government and by backbench MSPs.

"Our committee believes this inquiry is both timely and necessary."

Mr Gibson added: "The Scottish Government has already stated

there is very little published research on commissioners in Scotland – or the UK – and little evaluation exploring their pros and cons, powers or ways of working.

“Our committee will therefore investigate whether a more coherent and strategic approach is needed for the creation of such commissioners in Scotland.”



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