

ATELIER E.B + PANEL PRESENT

The INVENTORS^{of}

TRADITION II

AT THE PALACE OF ART 1121 Paisley Road West Glasgow
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IOT. II

2-30 MAY
TUE-SUN 11am - 5pm

**THE INVENTORS OF TRADITION II IS AN
EXHIBITION AND SHOP CONCEIVED BY ATELIER E.B
AND PANEL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE PALACE OF ART AND STEFF NORWOOD.**

THE INVENTORS OF TRADITION II

In the 2011 project *The Inventors of Tradition*, Atelier E.B and Panel uncovered and linked aspects of Scotland's unique heritage in textile production. Now, in 2015, with *The Inventors of Tradition II*, the pairs team up again to re-examine local culture and forge new connections. The project looks at art, architecture, design and sub-cultural identity, using permutations of style in Scotland's past to propose an alternative way of looking at our current situation. It does so through an exhibition, an events programme, a publication and a new fashion collection.

Four years on from *The Inventors of Tradition*, Glasgow looks and feels like a very different place. Atelier E.B's fashion label is built on supporting local production, but it has had to respond to the consumer trend for which authenticity, tradition and niche appeal is merely a new kind of marketing strategy. Their designs, while still produced and sold ethically, resist easy branding by embracing contrasting aspects of Scottish style, combining exquisite cashmere with cheap nylon tracksuits. The 2014 referendum asked us all to reflect on the current state of Scottish identity, and Atelier E.B is the only label to explicitly address this through fashion.

Have you ever wondered why sport and culture are overseen by the same governing body in this city? Both are considered civilising forces, essential to metropolitan life, with the Palace of Art as their symbolic headquarters. Designed to house the city's art collection, The Palace of Art is the only remaining building from the 1938 Empire Exhibition. In 1951 the building was converted to community use and is now a public sports facility. The Empire Exhibition had a complex set of propagandist concerns: to attract people to the city and show it off at its best; to celebrate Glasgow and its links to the British Commonwealth, highlighting civic

achievements and innovations. Atelier E.B's installation is influenced by Great Exhibition décor: display that is exuberant, ambitious and essentially transient. The exhibition is formed through a series of abstracted domestic rooms and expanded corridors. Each function to display new work in a variety of disciplines by Atelier E.B and its collaborators, and to supply a contextual framework for the new fashion collection. The collection is available to buy off the rail from the custom built-shop, located at the rear of the installation, for the duration of the exhibition.

Sportswear has been modernising fashion since the nineteenth century, and continues to be at the forefront of how people express their cultural allegiances, such as in the phenomenon of 'Casual' gangs. The omnipresence of the XX Commonwealth Games meant sport and not just sportswear have been artistic inspiration for the project, and since 2014 Atelier E.B have sponsored Leith Athletic Ladies Club. Glasgow is internationally known for its rival football teams and everything this represents in relation to religious, nationalist and socio-economic issues. Because of this, football has often been a favoured subject for male Scottish artists as representing something essential. In contrast, an appreciation of Charles Rennie Mackintosh is seen as 'inauthentic', because of his popularity and subsequent commercialisation. But the mass-market production of 'Mockintosh' accessories represents something equally unique to Glasgow, and single-handedly sustained the Scottish jewellery industry throughout the 1990s. *The Inventors of Tradition II* examines through fashion the way in which value is assigned along gendered lines, and in so doing proves what a sophisticated tool for empowerment and pleasure clothes can be.

ABOUT

The Inventors of Tradition II is a project by Atelier E.B and Panel and follows their first collaboration, *The Inventors of Tradition*, presented at 21 Stockwell Street, Glasgow in 2011. A special programme of events connected to the exhibition includes the work of acclaimed Film Director Murray Grigor and four performances of the dance *O YES*, a recreation of *YES O YES* from the production *I Am Curious, Orange* (1988) after the work by Michael Clark.

The project publication will launch in 2016.

ATELIER E.B

Atelier E.B is the company name under which the artist Lucy McKenzie and the designer Beca Lipscombe sign their collaborative projects. The group was formed in 2007 by Lipscombe and the illustrator Bernie Reid, who are based in Edinburgh, and McKenzie, who is originally from Glasgow and lives in Brussels.

Works to date include commissioned display and interiors for public and private spaces, fashion, textiles, furniture, events and publishing. In Glasgow, Atelier E.B presented *The Inventors of Tradition* (2011), an exhibition, catalogue and fashion collection that examined the legacy of Scotland's textile industry. This and subsequent collection *Ost End Girls* (2013) was sold directly to the public through a series of showrooms and is now worn all over the world. Atelier E.B continues to work closely with Panel (Catriona Duffy and Lucy McEachan), and graphic designers HIT (Lina Grumm and Annette Lux).

PANEL

Panel is an independent curatorial practice led by Catriona Duffy and Lucy McEachan. Based in Glasgow, Scotland, Panel promote design in relation to particular histories, archives, collections and events, locally and internationally through exhibitions, events and cultural projects.

STEFF NORWOOD

Steff Norwood is a Glasgow-based artist who works between the disciplines of design and sculpture. His work as a furniture maker is hybrid by nature, incorporating a singular aesthetic approach to furniture commissions, exhibition design and interiors.

Atelier E.B, Panel and Steff Norwood would like to thank the following individuals and organisations

All staff at The Palace of Art

Callum Alden
Charles Asprey
Will Beezlar
Sean Black
Lesley Booth
Lindsay Bruce
Colin Crichton
Juliet Dearden
Julie-Ann Delaney
Laurent Dupont
Diana Eccles
Murray Grigor
Lina Grumm

Nate Heiges
Peter Holmes
Alexia Holt
Jim Hutchison
Michael Hill Johnston
Shelley Klein and Henry Marie Liden
Annette Lux
Duncan Marquiss
Lisa Mason
Arthur Massey
Emmie McCluskey
Douglas McEachan
Mairi McKenzie
Ray McKenzie
Jack Miskell
Harry Norwood
Kim O'Neill
Tim Nunn
Mick Peter

Steven Purvis
Pochron Studio
Eileen Quinlan
Liz Radcliffe
Bernie Reid
Louise Rowlands
Ellen van Schuylenburch
Robbie Smith
Michael Stumpf
Helen Taylor
Linda Wilson
Rebecca Wober
Dawn Youll
Linsey Young

Alex Begg and Co.
The Art School
Atelier 11
British Council
Collection

Carine Gilson
Cleemput bvba
Cove Park
Dance International Glasgow
EMB Knitwear
George Gray
Glasgow Film Theatre
Glasgow Museums
Hawico Scotland
Heriot Watt University Archive
Leith Athletic Football Club
The Mitchell Library
National Museums of Scotland

Design by HIT

The Inventors of Tradition II is generously supported by Creative Scotland and The Elephant Trust and is part of Dance International Glasgow (DIG), a new biennial dance event for Glasgow and Scotland, produced by Tramway



atelierb.com
wearepanel.co.uk