



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

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PHOTO CALL

**11.00AM, THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 2014
SCULPTURE COURT, EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART
74 LAURISTON PLACE
EDINBURGH, EH3 9DF**

Fantasy, function and form are hallmarks of student designs

A giant monster made of slime, a chair crafted to help people with dementia and jewellery that creates optical illusions are among the highlights of a new exhibition of students' work at the University of Edinburgh.

Edinburgh College of Art's Masters Festival, which opens on Saturday (16 August), features the work of more than 80 graduating artists, architects and designers.

For nine days the College's Main Building will be transformed into a treasure trove of inventive designs, intricate artworks and inspiring ideas created by postgraduate students.

There will also be a variety of pop-up performances, talks and workshops in the ECA Sculpture Court throughout the Masters Festival. Programmed events include an insight into 3D printing, a children's illustration workshop and a series of film screenings of work from students on the Animation and Film Directing courses.

Performance Costume student Theo Cleary has created a fantastical world for visitors to step into. They will encounter a giant, bright blue slime monster with many eyes – a character in a story Theo has created called 'Once Upon a Slime'.

Jewellery and Silversmithing student, Ya Wen has created a range inspired by light, shadow and distortion. Her bold three-dimensional earrings play with vision, creating optical illusions.

Product Design student Rujun Wang has created an aesthetically pleasing wood chair to help people with early-stage dementia dress themselves. Numbered hangers by the chair indicate which order clothes should be put on, allowing people to get dressed without assistance.

Other Product Design students have created a range of ingenious products, which include a mask to prevent sleep apnoea, and a stool, which uses a thermoplastic made from plants.

Ranked among the top universities in the world

Art student Lindsay Booker's work stems from a fascination with natural disasters. Her highly-detailed ink drawings explore the physical and emotional response to events such as hurricanes and tsunamis.

Elin Webb, a student of the Art Space Nature programme and an outdoors enthusiast, explores the amount of kit people take on wildlife excursions in her project called The Bear Necessities. Her series of photographs scrutinise the volume of unnecessary products people accumulate, which ultimately leads to a disconnection with nature.

Illustrator Laura Darling has created a number of drawings for a children's book, inspired by trips to Edinburgh Zoo. While Yasmine Pirouz's colourful comic book-style illustrations provide a humorous perspective on healthy eating.

Elsewhere, Kirstin Binnie's impressive glass sculptures reflect the differing qualities of glass and paper, using light and shadow to play with the eyes.

Textile student Malin-Charlotte Ødemark has created a patchwork made from fabrics given to her by her mother and grandmother. Her work also incorporates and pictures from a family holiday to Norway to tell the story of the three generations.

Engaging work from design informatics, thought-provoking animation, graphic design, and inventive creations by fashion and interior design students will also be on show.

Previous degree shows have launched the careers of BAFTA winners Ainslie Henderson and Will Anderson.

The ECA Masters Festival Degree Show & Events is part of the Edinburgh Art Festival. It runs from 16 – 24 August, 11:00 – 17:00 and 20:00 on 20 and 21 August. All exhibitions are held in the ECA Main Building on Lauriston Place.

Further information can be found here: <http://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/eca-home/news-events/masters-festival-2014>

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