



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARTSPACE

For more information:
Maureen Keefe
415-626-9100

THE LION RAMPANT: NEW WORK FROM SCOTLAND
September 13 - October 22, 1988

Opening Reception: Tuesday, September 13, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Slide Lecture: Wednesday, September 14, 7:30 p.m.

Wit, irony, and forthrightness characterize the new works by Scotland's six most exciting artists on exhibit at **SAN FRANCISCO ARTSPACE**, 1286 and 1329 Folsom Street, from September 13 - October 22, 1988. Paintings by Ken Currie, David Hosie, Ian Hughes, Keith McIntyre, and Eddie Summerton will be exhibited in *The Lion Rampant: New Work From Scotland* at ARTSPACE, and concurrently shown at the **ARTSPACE ANNEX** will be an installation and photographs by Ron O'Donnell. In addition, a selection of videotapes by Pictorial Heroes (Doug Aubrey and Alan Robertson) will be available for viewing by request during gallery hours. A compilation videotape by the Artist Television Workshop, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, will also be available for viewing. Typical of the independence represented by the symbol of the lion rampant, the artists exhibited strongly express their passions about issues as diversified as the underdog's struggle in society, to the understanding of life through pain and sorrow, to the inconceivable and bizarre forewarning of a nuclear attack.

While young Scottish artists are being included in exhibitions within the United Kingdom, few of the artists' works have been seen abroad. Out of the six to be included in *The Lion Rampant*, only David Hosie, Ian Hughes, and Ron O'Donnell have shown in the states.

Fine draftsmanship is more evident than ever, and may be attributed to the concentration on strict drawing and painting techniques at the art schools in Scotland. All the works in the exhibition are ambitious in subject matter and escape from the traditional; rather than maritime studies of ships and seafarers, triptychs of crucifixions and political realism are presented.

David Hosie, Keith McIntyre, and Eddie Summerton all produce highly surreal imagery, with a somewhat macabre feel. David Hosie's ironic images of very personal and human predicaments have the same stillness and sense of harsh reality as Magritte's works. McIntyre, also from Edinburgh, depicts man embodied as a multitude of fish and meat in theatrical settings in *Dinner Suite Un Pecheur* and *Dinner Suite Habit de Rottiseure*. Trained at Duncan of

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Jordanstone College, Edward Summerton employs overt symbols to express the threat of some of our present society's values in works such as *The Tomb* and *From the Ice-Age to Dole-Age*.

Ron O'Donnell combines found junk objects in humorous installations while commenting on the absurdity of society's activities. O'Donnell's elaborate and imaginative assemblages are depicted in large-scale color photographs.

Ken Currie's paintings are perhaps the most politically committed. He feels strongly that it is not enough to just comment on social injustices, but that possible solutions also need to be presented. His paintings suggest new goals and values that will provide for a better future. Currie uses social realism rather than surrealism in the hopes of being understood by a broader audience.

Ian Hughes, like Ken Currie, takes a more direct and forceful approach. *Red Crucifixion*, a triptych, depicts the pieta scene, the crucifixion, and the fall of the damned. The painful images are all partially obliterated by blood, yet also suggest the possibility of rebirth by including splatterings of semen. Hughes comments "through pain and sorrow, we understand the precious gift of life." Hughes' preoccupation with pain may stem from his work as a nurse where he comes in contact with severely disordered psychiatric patients.

The directness and power of all the works presented by these remarkable Scottish artists immediately engages the audience's attention. The works in the exhibition, ***The Lion Rampant***, present views of human and social behavior seemingly predominate in Scotland, but that really plague all populations. The critical thinking stimulated by these works from Scotland is badly needed.

Ken Currie and Ron O'Donnell will present a public slide lecture on Wednesday, September 14, at 7:30 p.m. For more information about ***The Lion Rampant: New Scottish Painting, Photography, and Installation*** call San Francisco ARTSPACE, 415-626-9100. ARTSPACE is a nonprofit art and performance gallery. ARTSPACE is located at 1286 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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