

## PRESS RELEASE

Date of issue: 14th December 2011

### **Oil Paintings from Dundee go Online for the First Time Public Invited to Tag Paintings to Help Build a National Online Catalogue**

The Public Catalogue Foundation (PCF), in partnership with the BBC, today announced that all oil paintings in public ownership in Dundee have been added to the **Your Paintings** website for the nation to enjoy. **Your Paintings** is a project to create a complete online catalogue of every oil painting in the national collection, at [www.bbc.co.uk/yourpaintings](http://www.bbc.co.uk/yourpaintings)

Paintings by Cadell, Constable, James McIntosh Patrick, Millais, Peploe, Raeburn and Spencer are among the 2,150 paintings in Dundee that can now be seen on **Your Paintings**. There are 13 collections across the city that are involved in this ground-breaking national project to reveal paintings that are both on display and in store across the country.

Major collections such as those at the Dundee Art Galleries and Museums Collection and the University of Dundee Museum Collections are featured alongside smaller collections including Dundee College, Maggie's Centre in Dundee and the University of Abertay. Together their paintings provide a unique insight into the history and artistic heritage of Dundee.

To help the BBC and PCF identify and catalogue what can be seen in each painting, the public is being invited to **'tag'** the nation's paintings. Tagging is fun, easy and you don't need to be an art expert to do it. The results will allow future users of the Your Paintings website to find paintings of subjects that interest them. **Your Paintings Tagger** is at <http://tagger.thepcf.org.uk>

## Quotes

**Matthew Jarron, Curator, University of Dundee Museum Collections**, said: “We are absolutely delighted that our collections are being shown on the Your Paintings website. We have over 800 oil paintings including many by former students and staff from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design. Although displayed in buildings across the campus, many are little-known by the wider public so it is wonderful to let more people see how many talented painters Dundee has produced.”

**Cllr Bob Duncan, Chairman of Leisure and Culture, Dundee**, said: “The fine art collections of Dundee Art Galleries and Museums are designated as being of national significance. However, in common with many museums we are able to display only a fraction of them at any one time. The Your Paintings website will make our oil paintings easily and immediately accessible to everyone who logs on.”

**Nicholas Serota, Director, Tate**, said: “The Your Paintings website is an important undertaking that will reveal the depth and breadth of the nation's collections of paintings, many of them published online for the first time. Through ambitious collaboration between organisations across the UK this bold project complements our ambition to connect audiences with art in an immediate way online, something we will take for granted in the future.”

**Andrew Ellis, Director, the Public Catalogue Foundation**, said: “No country has ever embarked on such a monumental project to showcase its entire painting collection online. Working with collections and individuals all over the UK, this project will reveal to the world the UK’s extraordinary holding of oil paintings.”

**Roly Keating, Director of Archive Content, BBC**, said: “Our partnership with the PCF encapsulates so many of the BBC's ambitions, both as a public service broadcaster and key supporter of the UK arts sector. Your Paintings will be a hugely valuable learning resource for our audience and demonstrates the power of working with partners to open up the nation's cultural resources.”

## Press Images

Press images of the paintings below are available from Katie Carder at [katie.carder@thepcf.org.uk](mailto:katie.carder@thepcf.org.uk)

or on 020 7395 0338



**Patrick, James McIntosh 1907–1998**  
*Alex Russell, Head of Design 1930*  
 © the artist's estate/Bridgeman Art Library  
 Oil on canvas 61 x 51cm  
**Duncan of Jordanstone College Collection**

Probably Dundee's most famous painter, Patrick taught at Dundee College of Art. Alex Russell was a popular figure at the College, often being seen with a cat in his pocket. The way the subject is positioned with mountain scenery far behind him is perhaps a deliberate reference to da Vinci's famous *Mona Lisa*.

**Collection contact: Matthew Jarron**  
 (museum@dundee.ac.uk)



**Rossetti, Dante Gabriel 1828–1882**  
*Dante's Dream on the Day of the Death of Beatrice 1880*  
 Oil on canvas 135 x 200cm  
**Dundee Art Galleries and Museums Collection (Dundee City Council)**

A founder member of the Pre-Raphaelites, Rossetti identified strongly with his namesake, Dante Alighieri (1265–1321), the world famous Italian poet. Dante described this dream in his biography, 'La Vita Nuova'. In this painting Dante is shown being led through the streets of Florence to the bedside of his dead lady. The glowing red-clad figure of Love bends for a moment over Beatrice with the kiss which her lover had never given her.

**Collection contact: Anna Robertson and Susan Keracher (01382 307200)**



**Cadell, Francis Campbell Boileau 1883–1937**  
*Cecilia No.2 1912*  
 Oil on canvas 62 x 75cm  
**University of Dundee Fine Art Collection**

Most of Cadell's early subjects were drawn from the fashionable world of Edinburgh's New Town, like this elegantly-dressed lady looking into a mirror. At this point Cadell had yet to meet the other artists who would be grouped with him as the "Colourists". His bold use of colour is already apparent. The form of the tea cups is suggested by just a few blue strokes of paint around a patch of white.

**Collection contact: Matthew Jarron**  
 (museum@dundee.ac.uk)



**Carse, Alexander c.1770–1843**  
*The Village Ba' Game 1818*  
 Oil on canvas 89 x 133cm  
**Dundee Art Galleries and Museums Collection (Dundee City Council)**

*The Village Ba' Game* is reputed to be the earliest painting of a football match in the world. This boisterous game between the 'Uppies' and the 'Doonies' was held in Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders in 1817. Carse excelled at genre painting and this work is of international importance. It has just gone out on loan to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

**Collection contact: Anna Robertson and Susan Keracher (01382 307200)**



**Peplow, Samuel John 1871–1935**  
*Nannie (Mary Sanderson) c.1908*  
 Oil on canvas 49 x 29cm  
**University of Dundee Fine Art Collection**

This portrait of Peplow's nanny dates from his pre-Colourist period. Describing the painting to its former owner, Arthur Kay, Peplow wrote: "It is the head of my old nurse (now our housekeeper) Mary Sanderson, Highland woman, Calvinist, holy terror, with heart of gold, but a bad sitter... The Head was painted in 34.5 minutes – probably a record".

**Collection contact: Matthew Jarron**  
 (museum@dundee.ac.uk)



**Fergusson, John Duncan 1874–1961**  
*A Lowland Church 1916*  
 © The Fergusson Gallery, Perth and Kinross Council, Scotland  
 Oil on canvas 51 x 56cm  
**Dundee Art Galleries and Museums Collection (Dundee City Council)**

Fergusson was a Scottish Colourist. During the summers of 1915 and 1917 Fergusson spent extended periods with his family in Bonnyrigg on the outskirts of Edinburgh. In 1914 he had painted a watercolour of nearby Lasswade Parish Church from which he developed *A Lowland Church* in 1916.

**Collection contact: Anna Robertson (01382 307200)**

## Notes to Editors

### About Your Paintings

Your Paintings is a partnership project between the BBC and the Public Catalogue Foundation (PCF) to put the United Kingdom's entire collection of oil paintings online at [www.bbc.co.uk/yourpaintings](http://www.bbc.co.uk/yourpaintings). This website is emerging as a unique learning resource, showing not only photographs and information about each painting but also selected BBC TV archive footage and links to further information. The website was launched at the National Gallery in the summer of 2011. Currently, the site shows around 104,000 paintings from 1,400 collections.

In total, the national oil painting collection amounts to some 200,000 works, held in 3,000 galleries, museums, universities, hospitals and other public institutions from across the UK, making it one of the largest and most diverse collections of paintings in the world. The plan is for all these paintings to be online by the end of 2012.

With the help of crowd-sourcing technology pioneered by the Astrophysics Department at the University of Oxford to classify galaxies, and art historical input from the University of Glasgow, the public are being invited to go online and help classify or 'tag' the paintings catalogued by the PCF so that in due course the paintings can be searchable by subject matter. Paintings can be tagged by visiting <http://tagger.thepcf.org.uk/>

### About the Public Catalogue Foundation

The PCF is a registered charity. It was launched in 2003 to create a photographic record of all the oil paintings in public ownership in the United Kingdom. In addition to publishing its work online, the PCF is also publishing a series of printed catalogues.

The painstaking research to locate the paintings up and down the country and collate the data has been carried out by 50 researchers. Over 30 fine art photographers have been employed to take photographs of these paintings over the life of the project. London-based staff focus on fundraising, processing and editing the data that comes in from the field, and clearing copyright.

The PCF is funded principally by grants and donations. Under 20 per cent of its funding comes from the public sector. Whilst many hundreds of individuals and institutions have supported its work, the PCF's principal funders are Arts Council England, Christie's, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust, The Monument Trust, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and the Wolfson Foundation.

The PCF was founded by Dr Fred Hohler. Its Trustees are Charles Gregson (Chairman of the PCF), Robert Hiscox (Chairman of Hiscox plc), Menna McGregor (Clerk of the Mercers' company), Alex Morrison (Founder and Managing Managing Director of Cogapp), Richard Roundell (Vice-Chairman of Christie's UK), Marc Sands (Director of Audiences and Media at Tate), Dr Charles Saumarez Smith (Chief Executive of the Royal Academy), Graham Southern (Founding Director of Blain Southern) and the artist Alison Watt. The Director is Andrew Ellis.

For more information go to [www.thepcf.org.uk](http://www.thepcf.org.uk)

### About BBC Online

BBC Online is BBC's portfolio of websites, available at [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk). It comprises ten Products – News, Sport, Weather, CBBC, CBeebies, Knowledge & Learning, Homepage, Search, TV & iPlayer and Radio & Music. In April 2011, it had 31.7 million unique browsers and was the fourth most popular website in the UK. It is the only UK-owned website in the UK top ten. Your Paintings is part of Knowledge & Learning.

The BBC creates partnerships with the arts sector that go beyond broadcast, from sharing expertise to widening public engagement in UK arts.

---

### Media Enquiries

For the Public Catalogue Foundation and for press images contact Katie Carder on 020 7395 0338.