

MILESTONE - TALKS PROGRAMME

Edinburgh College of Art, Main Building, Studios C26-C28 (first right off Sculpture Court)
Talks will take place in the Milestone exhibition space, with seating provided, and will last approximately 1 hour. Free admission.

Wednesday 5th August, 17:30

'Cool Stone: Hot Hands' - Dr Jeanne Cannizzo, Social Anthropologist, University of Edinburgh

Taking a single stone object, probably carved from a Mezcala River pebble in ancient western Mexico, Dr Cannizzo will explore what can be deduced from scholarly research and a physical examination of the object. Then the multiple meanings which might have become attached to this thing as it moves from ornament to artefact, to junk shop 'treasure', to its latest incarnation as her personal talisman, will be suggested. All of these meanings revolve, at some level, around the carving's materiality and tactility.

Wednesday 12th August, 17:30

'The Geology of Scotland' – Andrew McMillan, Geologist, British Geological Survey

Andrew is a geologist from the British Geological Survey, based in Edinburgh. With his expertise on Scottish geology, this seminar will introduce the material stone and how it is formed with a special emphasis on the use of natural stone in the Scottish landscape.

Wednesday 12th August, 18:30

'The Image of a Warrior Society' – Dr David Caldwell, Keeper of Scotland and Europe, National Museums of Scotland, In Association with VARIE

Following from Andrew McMillan's guide through the geology of Scotland, Dr David Caldwell will offer an insight into Scottish medieval, West Highland sculpture. These sculptures provides a remarkable record of a unique, militarised society, consciously different from its neighbours in the rest of Britain. There is a corpus of over 800 surviving pieces, mostly grave-slabs and commemorative crosses, dating from the 14th to the 16th century. They are carved with images of warriors and clerics, weapons and equipment, hunting scenes and ships. Dr Caldwell's research, undertaken with geologist colleagues, suggests a new model for where they were carved and who were the main patrons.

Wednesday 19th August, 17:30

'Green treasures from the magic mountains: Neolithic axe-heads of jadeitite and other Alpine rocks' – Dr Alison Sheridan, Head of Early Prehistory Archaeology Department, National Museums Scotland, In Association with VARIE

It is tempting to view these beautiful objects as the ancient treasured possessions of incoming communities. The axe-heads would have been replete with the mythology and symbolism of the inconceivably-distant magic green mountains whence they had originated: powerful talismans in stories of how the world began. Such was the belief in their innate power and extreme value that, occasionally, individual specimens would be deliberately broken and shared around. And by laying them down in the realms of the spirits and ancestors, their owners were hoping for continued benefit to the living. Dr Alison Sheridan will discuss some of these ancient rocks and pre-historic tools showing stones relevance since time began.

Wednesday 19th August, 18:30

'STONE project and Milestone Exhibition: An introduction' – Professor Jake Harvey and Joel Fisher
STONE project is a three-year research project, funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council, based at Edinburgh College of Art and led by Professor Jake Harvey (Head of Sculpture), Professor Noe Mendelle (Head of Film and Television) and Joel Fisher.

The project involves researching relevant stone craft skills in a global context – a rich repository that, like the material itself, has accumulated over a long timescale. Many traditional stone working

techniques are in danger of being lost. Is the material of stone destined to become culturally peripheral, or can it be revisited and invigorated in new ways? Professor Harvey and Joel Fisher will expand on some of the research so far undertaken by STONE project and introduce the reasons behind holding Milestone.

Wednesday 26th August, 18:30

'Peter Randall-Page: A Life's work' – Peter Randall-Page

Peter Randall-Page will be giving an illustrated talk about his sculpture, drawings and prints from the last 25 years including images of the very latest work produced for his major solo exhibition currently on at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. In Spring 2010 Milestone will also be exhibiting the 11 finished pieces created during this month at Yorkshire Sculpture Park.