Scottish Society for Art History
Conference: Scotland and Japan
February 2022

Call for Papers
The Scottish Society for Art History’s conference for 2022 will explore cultural connections and points of intersection between the diverse visual and material cultures of Scotland and Japan. Although best-known for reaching their peak in the Japonisme of the late 19th century, Scotland’s links with Japan date back at least as far as the 17th century and continue into the present. They extend beyond the fine arts to many other artforms, such as ceramics, textiles, fashion, and furniture. This international conference will bring together academics, independent researchers, curators, archivists and artists to share new research in the area, as well as to exchange ideas, and engage in lively discussions related to the shared art historical legacies of Scotland and Japan, past and present. It will promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the nations.

Topics include (but are not limited to):
• The influence of Japanese art on Scottish artists (and vice versa)
• The phenomenon of Japonisme in Scotland
• Trade in art and artefacts between Japan and Scotland
• Scottish artists in Japan (e.g. George Henry, Edward Atkinson Hornel)
• Exhibitions, events and exchanges (e.g. the 1878 Glasgow-Meiji exchange)
• Japanese interest in Scottish textiles
• Scottish collectors of Japanese art (and vice versa)
• The curation of Japanese art in Scottish collections, including acquisition, research and display
• The work of contemporary Japanese or Scottish artists influenced by the art, landscape and culture of Japan/Scotland

We welcome proposals for 20-minute presentations for the conference. Speakers will be expected to provide a PowerPoint presentation, with images, to accompany their presentation. Proposals should be in the form of 300-500 word abstracts. The deadline for proposals is 31 July 2021. A selection of papers will be published in the Journal of the Scottish Society for Art History.

If you would like to discuss the CFP in greater detail or submit an abstract, please contact Claire Robinson, Chair of the SSAH – cr67@st-andrews.ac.uk.

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