

FROM COLOURISTS TO CONTEMPORARY:
STILL LIFE PAINTING FROM THE FLEMING COLLECTION
10th January - 25th March 2006
AT THE FLEMING COLLECTION

From Colourists to Contemporary is an exhibition exploring the origins and development in Scottish still life painting. The Fleming Collection is rich in still life painting and the exhibition, which charts the development of the genre through the twentieth century, includes work by the Scottish Colourists, the Edinburgh School and a number of contemporary artists. From Colourists to Contemporary continues until 25th March 2006.

The Scottish Colourists were seminal in introducing the still life to Scottish painting. Still life painting in Scotland became an important genre only at the end of the nineteenth century, considerably later than other nations such as Holland, which had prioritised the genre since the seventeenth century. Before the introduction of still life painting, Scottish artists mainly painted landscapes, genre subjects and painting en plain air.

The importance of the Colourists is reflected by the inclusion of seven key paintings by the group, all of which were purchased between 1968 and 1981. These include *Peonies in a China Vase*, c.1928, by John Duncan Fergusson (1874-1961), *Still Life (with Pewter Jug)* by Samuel John Peploe (1871-1935) and *Carnations* by FCB Cadell (1883-1937). All these works show the influence of the French nineteenth and twentieth century artists including Manet and Cézanne.

The Colourists influenced later generations of Scottish artists, including The Edinburgh School which is represented with four bold still lives by Anne Redpath (1895 – 1965) dating from the 1940s. During this period her main interest was rendering still life subjects found in domestic interiors in heavily worked layers of impasto on board. Alongside Redpath are works by the three other principal Edinburgh School artists: Sir William MacTaggart (1903-1981), Sir William Gillies (1908-1973) and John Maxwell (1905-1964).

Work by Sir Robin Philipson (1916-1993), Head of the School of Drawings and Paintings at Edinburgh College of Art and President of the RSA between 1973 and 1983, is featured along with his contemporary, Alberto Morrocco (1917-1998). *Turcomania* demonstrates Morrocco's love affair with colour inspired by the work of Vuillard and Bonnard he saw at the Edinburgh International Festival in 1948. The exhibition encouraged Morrocco to travel to the Mediterranean.

Living artists in the exhibition include Elizabeth Blackadder and her husband, John Houston, whose work is shown alongside younger artists such as Abigail McLellan (b. 1969), Craig Mulholland (b. 1969), Paul Reid (b. 1975) and David Ross Warrillow (b. 1956).