



Call for Public to Take Part in Maritime Heritage Art Workshops

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) is calling on local residents to get creative with their heritage through a number of art workshops taking place this November.

As part of RCAHMS keystone centenary project 'Treasured Places', members of the public will be teaming up with the Pier Arts Centre and local artist Sarah Maclean to create artwork for public display that reflects the cultural and historical impact of Orkney's fascinating maritime heritage. The workshops will take place at a variety of venues in Orkney over five days, from Monday 12th to Friday 16th November.

Jane Gilchrist, Treasured Places education officer said: 'By taking part in these fun and interactive art workshops, participants will have a wonderful chance to work with a dynamic and exciting team of specialists whilst getting hands-on with Orkney's unique maritime heritage. The invitation to participate in these free workshops is open to residents of all ages and absolutely no experience or knowledge is required'.

The resulting piece of unique artwork will go on public display at the Pier Arts Centre on November 16th. It will then be incorporated into the 'Treasured Places' touring exhibition, which will visit ten venues throughout Scotland between September 2008 and May 2009.

For more information on taking part in the free workshop sessions and to book your place, please contact Jane Gilchrist, Treasured Places education officer, on 0131 662 1456 or jane.gilchrist@rcahms.gov.uk. Closing date for workshop places is noon on Friday 9th November 2007.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Workshop Dates and Venues:

Date	Location	Times
Monday 12 th November	Pier Arts Centre, Stromness	11am- 4pm
Tuesday 13 th November	Cromarty Hall, St Margaret's Hope	11am- 4pm
Wednesday 14 th November	Gable End Theatre, Lyness	11am- 4pm
Thursday 15 th November	Pier Arts Centre, Stromness	11am- 4pm
Friday 16 th November	Pier Arts Centre, Stromness	10am- 4pm
	Exhibition of work	6pm-8pm

2. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) is currently developing a number of projects to celebrate its centenary year in 2008. The main celebration for the general public is *Treasured Places* a Scotland-wide initiative to engage the public with the heart of the Commission's work and explore the archive collection through a number of exciting initiatives taking place over the next 18 months. The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the man-made environment and to help people recognise the value of their own local heritage.
3. **Treasured Places** is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and run by RCAHMS.
4. An online vote is currently taking place at www.treasuredplaces.org.uk to find the nation's favourite archive image of their treasured place.
5. RCAHMS is the national record of Scotland's built environment, whose mission is to identify, survey and interpret the archaeological, architectural and historical environment of Scotland, to preserve and add to the collection, and to promote public understanding and enjoyment of items in the collection.