

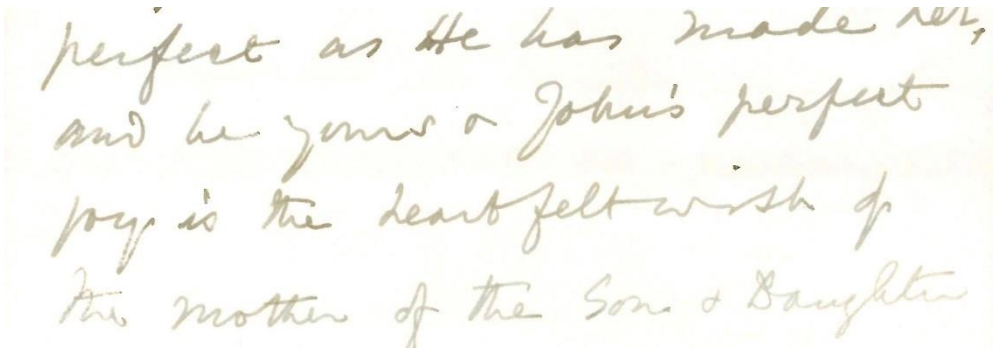


## MOUNT STUART

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### Mount Stuart Trust Visual Arts Programme: Press Release

#### Whitney McVeigh: *What is Worthwhile Doing in this World*



**Saturday 16 March 2019**

**Preview 2.00-5.00pm**

**Artist Talk 3.30-4.30pm**

**Exhibition continues to April 26 2019**

Mount Stuart Trust is delighted to announce a solo exhibition by Whitney McVeigh this spring as part of its expanded Contemporary Visual Arts Programme.

McVeigh reaches into the Bute Archive, traditionally the realm of a patriarchal narrative, and focuses on intimate traces of the history of women in the house, in particular Gwendolen Crichton Stuart, 3rd Marchioness of Bute (1854-1932) and Augusta Crichton Stuart DBE, 4th Marchioness of Bute (1880-1947). The exhibition is an opportunity to bring the archive into the public space, an encounter that alludes to layers of time and celebrates our universality.

McVeigh's practice is concerned with identity, memory and the collective unconscious. She refers to the "archaeology of memory" as a central concept in her work, and the belief that energy, in accordance with particle physics, never dies. In this show she presents curated assemblages of archive material and objects, and (following on from her recent work *Divine Rules* at the Getty Villa CA) a selection of books from the 25,000 publications in the Mount Stuart library, together with her own open letter and texts addressed to the public reader and inscribed on brass plaques placed throughout the house.

A speech given by Augusta in 1934 to the North Bute Literary Society forms the basis for a sound installation *She Was Known to You* made in collaboration with actor Maureen Beattie. The tone of the recording, in the manner of writing, is quiet and reflective, and is sited in Augusta's study. The various works encapsulate McVeigh's process – a transformative dialogue between the context, the artist and the viewer - and her profound skills of observation.

Whitney McVeigh (b. 1968, New York) lives and works in London where she is a Fellow in Creative Practice at University of the Arts, London. Recent solo exhibitions include *Elegy to Nature* at Eykyn Maclean, New York (2018), *Language of Memory* at Summerhall Arts, Edinburgh (2015-16) and *Inventory: Invisible Companion* at Kettle's Yard, Cambridge (2015). In 2019, McVeigh will guest-curate *Documentum*, co-founded by Stephen Shore, William Boling and Dawn Kim, a periodical archiving and examining the cultural ephemera of our time. Group exhibitions include *Plato in L.A.: Contemporary Artists' Visions* at the Getty Villa, Los Angeles (2018), and *Glass Stress, White Light/White Heat* at the 55th Venice Biennale (2013). McVeigh presented the short film '*Birth: Origins at the end of life*' at the Royal Academy of Arts, London (2015). She was featured in BBC4 television documentary, *Where is Modern Art Now* (2009) alongside Michael Landy, Grayson Perry, Cornelia Parker and Sir Anthony Caro and in 2007 gave a short presentation of her work at Louise Bourgeois' Salon in New York.

**Notes for Editors:**

Mount Stuart is an extraordinary Neo-Gothic mansion on the Island of Bute, sitting between Glasgow, Argyll and Ayrshire on the Firth of Clyde. Since 2001, this unorthodox building has provided both the inspiration and location for an acclaimed visual arts programme. Under the directorship of Sophie Crichton Stuart, the programme has ensured that contemporary artists continue to create and breathe new life into the historic setting.

Through the Visual Arts Programme, Mount Stuart Trust aims to promote and facilitate interest in the contemporary visual arts and bring exhibitions of international standard to Bute and Argyll. Complementing each exhibition is a programme of events, publications and educational activities.

A solo exhibition with Martin Boyce opens 25 May through 2 November 2019.

**For further information, CV and press images please contact:**

Donna Chisholm, [donna@mountstuart.com](mailto:donna@mountstuart.com)

Morven Gregor, [morven@mountstuart.com](mailto:morven@mountstuart.com)

**Ferry and train information:**

Until 29th March 2019

<https://www.calmac.co.uk/wemyss-bay-rothesay-bute-ferry-winter-timetable>

From 29th March 2019

<https://www.calmac.co.uk/wemyssbay-rothesay-bute-ferry-summer-timetable>

**Mount Stuart opening hours:**

House open all year. Please call +44 (0)1700 503877 for further information or visit [www.mountstuart.com](http://www.mountstuart.com)  
Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute PA20 9LR

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