



PRESS RELEASE
Embargoed Monday, 5 December 2005

CHILDREN IN SCOTLAND ART COMPETITION

My favourite place? My bedroom

**See table below for detail of winners*

Eva likes to be in Italy, Catriona in Crete and Dominic prefers Chelsea to any of his local football teams. But wanderlust wasn't the biggest theme of children's response to Children in Scotland's request for them to describe "my favourite place". Home is where their hearts are: bedrooms come out as children's favourite place.

The winning artists will be guests of honour at a prize-giving ceremony in the Scottish Parliament on Monday, 5 December where they will be recognised for their ideas and artistic talents.

Children emphasised the freedom, privacy and security they felt in their bedroom: "It's spacious, it's cosy, it makes me feel safe and sound" and "here I can have peace and quiet" were just a couple of the many testimonies to bedrooms. Other reasons included access to "my beloved playstation" and to televisions.

But even if they are only looking at it from their bedroom window – "I always feel safe in my bedroom. I have a good view from my window so I can look out onto the woods" – nature was also an important feature of children's responses. With tree climbing, leaves, parks, and hills all depicted: "My favourite is Gargunnoch Hill. I like this place because it's good for climbing. I go there occasionally and feel free."

And be it gran's bed "My favourite place is my Gran's bed because she has a hot blanket and I get peace and quiet" or "the park where Grandad stays" children also valued spending time with their grandparents.

Winners and selected entries are on display at the Scottish Parliament for a week from 5 December. Prizes will be awarded on the first day of the exhibition by Robin Harper MSP, chair of the cross party group on children and architecture and co-convenor of the Scottish Green Party who helped judge the competition.

He stressed the importance of involving children in design. He said: “If we do not make the effort to see things through their eyes we could miss a multitude of opportunities to create better learning spaces for enjoyment and growth.”

The other judges were film producer/director Mark Cousins, Ikea community manager, Hilary Robb and Children in Scotland’s arts development officer Fiona Maher who said: “With such a huge number of entries judging is never an easy job but the winning entries stood out in terms of originality, imagination, creativity and use of materials in their interpretation of the theme.

Hilary Robb said: “A wonderful way to spend an afternoon - looking at hundreds of colourful and imaginative pictures. Congratulations to all those who took part and a huge ‘well done’ to our winners”

The competition gave children the chance tell architects, planners, teachers and academics attending the international conference *Making space: architecture and design for young children* in Edinburgh this month, about what is important to them. The winning artwork was on display at the Scottish Parliament for MSPs to see and a selection of the entries will be displayed at the conference.

The prize-giving ceremony for the Children in Scotland National Art Competition 2005 will take place at the Scottish Parliament, on Monday 5 December at 3.30pm, where there will be photo opportunities.

Photographs will be taken on the day. If you would like to attend, send a photographer or would like photos emailed to you after the event, please contact Moira Cameron on 0131 222 2410.

The winners		
<i>Placing</i>	<i>Name, entry title & school</i>	<i>Judges comments by film producer/director Mark Cousins</i>
Overall winner	Jade Williamson “Going down a rainbow” Balhousie Primary School	“This overall winner is an extremely touching picture. Her favourite place is sliding down a rainbow - a fantastically original and inventive idea. And it is portrayed so well. Many people would paint the rainbow as an arc but here it becomes a slide, widening at the bottom. We also loved the exhilaration on the slider's face, that big smile and those happy hands. She is about to land in our lap. Beautiful idea, brilliantly realised.”
Under 5 winner	Logan Bryson “In the park on my skateboard” Levenhall Nursery Musselburgh	“A lovely idea - that his favourite place is mobile - very well realised. You can feel the struggle to balance (that grim expression!)and the wind in his hair. The drawing is very well positioned on the page and confidently graphic”
Under 5 runner up	Drew Ritchie “on my Uncle Josie’s big yellow tractor”	“Like the girl sliding down the rainbow, and the boy on his skateboard, this picture is about the fun of being in a moving place.

	Quarter Primary School Hamilton	Just 20 bold brushstrokes sketch in the field and the tractor comes alive (and heads towards us!) in a few slabs of brilliant yellow. The wheels are great too. A whole story told in just three colours. Great.”
5-8 winner	Eva Guidi “Italy” St Kenneth’s Primary East Kilbride	“Wow, what a lovely painting. Great big bold arcs, that fab terracotta cone and lovely rich navy, olives and earthy browns. A talented colourist and a fine composition.”
5-8 runner up	Chloe Butler “The swimming baths, I love swimming” Arden Primary School Glasgow	“Again there were many swimming pool pictures but this one caught us because of the texture of the water and the determination with which the swimmer swims through it. We can even see her little heart pumping blood through her veins. She's wholly absorbed by the swim. That the collage is on black paper makes it feel that it is taking place at night - even more mysterious.”
9- 11 winner	Dominic Silk “Stanford Bridge, Chelsea’s Football Club Ground” Mile End School Aberdeen	“This photo-painting struck us at once for its innovative use of two media. It is a spectator's view of the match but bleeding the photo out beyond its edges adds such a personal touch, that a standard width image becomes lovely cinemascope.”
9-11 runner up	Natalia Donnelly-Kay “My room” Holy Family Primary School West Lothian	“There were many entries about bedrooms. This one stood out because of its great blocks of colour, subtly co-ordinated, the strong and funny narrative (the brother serving him on his knees) and the range of detail.”
Best painting	Fiona Donnan “My favourite place” Dean Park Primary School Edinburgh	“We loved the boldness of this painting of a tree, the way the page is fully covered with big blocks of colour, the detailing in the branches and trunk, and the lovely sense of achievement the climber has in making it so far! The view from up there must be great and they have still to look behind them over the grey wall.”
Best photo	Duncan Darren “Yahoo, I love leaves” Tullynessle Primary School Aberdeenshire	“This photograph uses the medium to the full. Whilst the girl is crisp and clear, the leaves are translucent and moving, still half way through their fall. Once again the main character in the image has her arms and hands outstretched as if she is filling the space that she likes so much.”
Best collage	Catriona Salnini “A beach in Crete” Broxburn Family Centre West Lothian	“There were many good collages submitted, and many of the artists chose the beach as their favourite place. What we liked here was first the overall vitality and sense of place of the picture - we could feel the sea

		breezes and see the choppy waves. But the technique swung it for us. She has used a great range of materials - for their colour, texture and ability to reflect light. The sari-like clippings on the beach and the sand castles, which look Islamic, give it an Indian or North African feel. Really lovely.”
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Quotes from children

My favourite place is on the Leckie Estate at a little burn because all I can hear is the burn trickling and the birds tweeting. I can breathe in the country air. I always feel relaxed there and I really like it.

Thomas Young, age 9

My favourite place is up the tree in my front garden because I can see the whole neighbourhood. I feel safe up the tree and if I'm playing tig no-one can catch me. Sometimes cherries grow that are safe to eat. It is quite hard to climb up the tree.

James Fitches, age 10

My favourite place is the wall in our playground because I put a lot of effort into my painting. I enjoyed drawing, planning and painting it. My picture is of a rainbow trout. I like our playground because the wall makes it look brighter and it attracts wildlife.

Rory Ferguson age 10

My favourite place is my back garden. I like it because I like to play football with my dad and brother

Scott McARuther age 8

My favourite place is in Stirling Walk near Stirling Castle. I like walking around the graveyard to the park with my dog and I like being under the trampoline because it is nice and shady when I am hot jumping. I even like sitting next to the fire place to keep warm when it is cold outside when I'm out and I keep warm.

Amy McCabe age 9

ENDS

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Notes for editors

- Children in Scotland is Scotland's national children's agency, bringing together voluntary, statutory and professional organisations and individuals to improve the lives of Scotland's children and their families.
- *Making space: architecture and design for young children* is an international conference to be held on 8-9 December, 2005, at the Sheraton Hotel, Festival

Square, Lothian Road, Edinburgh. For further information on the conference contact visit www.childrenscotland.org.uk or contact Nicola Pay on 00 44 131 2222419, email npay@childrenscotland.org.uk