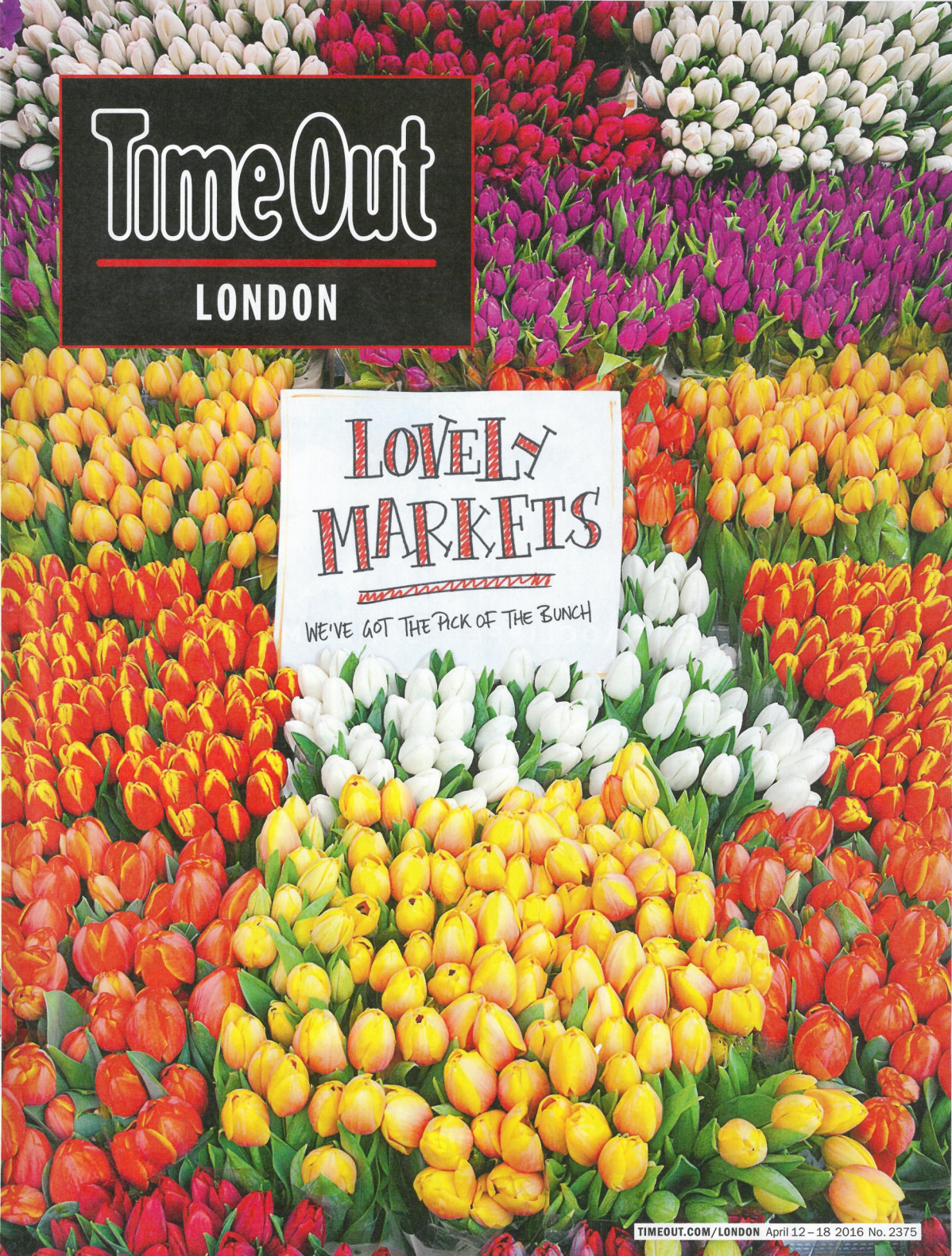


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Publication Name: Time Out Magazine

Circulation: 308,579

Date: 12 – 18 April 2016



TIMEOUT.COM/LONDON April 12-18 2016 No. 2375

Art

Scottish Artists 1750-1900: From Caledonia to the Continent



THE SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT of the eighteenth century spawned thinkers including David Hume, Adam Smith and Robert Burns, and saw Scots swept up in a whirlwind of ideas that centred on the value of reason, as well as on human and property rights. This is the era (plus a little more besides) covered by this exhibition at Buckingham Palace. There is no direct discussion of the Enlightenment here, though the wall texts do provide satisfying descriptions of the artists' lives and motivations: these were educated Scottish men looking inwards at their own country, as well as outwards to the rest of Europe.

Someone in the Royal family clearly liked the work of Sir David Wilkie, who has a hefty presence here spanning his historical scenes, Spanish series and mythical paintings. But the works by Wilkie that really crackle are those set closer to home and depicting daily Scottish life – pub mayhem, a 'penny wedding' – scenes full of figures careening around with joie de vivre (or joie de whisky, at least).

Many of the formal portraits of royalty and the like are underwhelming, though there is a



WHAT IS IT...
A royal haul of art from north of the border – and beyond.

WHY GO...
For a snoop around parts of Britain's poshest collection. Plus, if you gift-aid your ticket, it becomes an annual pass.

→ The Queen's Gallery, Victoria. Until Oct 9. £3.70-£10.30.

stunner by John Pettie, 'Bonnie Prince Charlie Entering the Ballroom at Holyroodhouse' (1891-92, pictured). It shows the prince – a Stuart and pretender to the throne – emerging from dramatic darkness into the light, robed in full regalia and wearing a countenance of delightfully arch irreverence: he's the guy at the party that catches the room's attention.

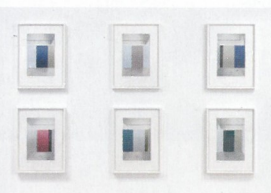
As the title suggests, there are plenty of paintings taken from the artists' European travels. Yet it is the domestic moments showcasing the fantastical everyday of Caledonia (the name the Romans gave to Scotland) rather than the Continental takeaways that resonate in this entertaining, if uneven show. ■ *Ananda Pellerin*

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Great art to see around Piccadilly



JAC LEIRNER: JUNKIE

★★★★★
The Brazilian's photos depict the minutiae of drug taking and its attendant rituals: rocks of cocaine, measuring scales, banknotes. Some images are more whimsical – the coke whittled into little faces. You don't get anything significant being said about pleasure or addiction. Then again, treating weak ideas as if they contain deep insight is classic stoned behaviour – so in that sense the meandering, recursive tone is pretty evocative. ■ *Gabriel Coxhead*
→ White Cube Mason's Yard. Piccadilly Circus. Until May 14. Free.



PAUL WINSTANLEY

★★★★★
Come the end of the summer term, art schools turn into strange and sombre places. The degree shows are taken down, materials are stowed away. Which hardly sounds like the best state in which to depict such places, but Paul Winstanley is a painter seasoned in bringing a kind of romanticism to the most anonymous of spaces. Executed with deadpan sincerity, they're evocative, melancholy and magical. ■ *Matt Breen*
→ Alan Cristea Gallery. Piccadilly Circus. Until May 7. Free.



BARRY FLANAGAN

★★★★★
Barry Flanagan belonged to a wayward generation of sculptors who trained at St Martin's in the 1960s. He never stopped working with traditional materials, but it's essentially fun that characterises his work. He seemed to take particular pleasure in applying off-the-cuff gestures to heavy-duty stuff: there's a huge piece of travertine stone that seems to have been absent-mindedly twisted like a piece of Blu-tack. ■ *Matt Breen*
→ Waddington Custod. Piccadilly Circus. Until May 14. Free.

DON'T MISS

Still on and still great

FRANCISZKA AND STEFAN THEMERSON

★★★★★
Anarchic fun by a prolific pair of Poles who worked across a dizzying range of media.
→ Camden Arts Centre. Finchley Rd. Until Jun 5. Free.

STRANGE AND FAMILIAR

★★★★★
Humorous, haunting sometimes heartbreaking – this is how international photographers have viewed the UK over the past seven decades.
→ Barbican Art Gallery. Barbican. Until Jun 19. £5-£12.

PAINTING THE MODERN GARDEN: MONET TO MATISSE

★★★★★
Quick, the RA's fab flower fest is on its final stretch. You'll need to book but our return visit last week wasn't anything like the scrum we'd feared.
→ Royal Academy of Arts. Piccadilly Circus. Until Apr 20. £10-£17.60.

DAVID SHRIGLEY

★★★★★
A triumphant free show of drawings and paintings by Brit art's funniest voice.
→ Stephen Friedman. Piccadilly Circus. Until Apr 20. Free.



TOLERATE NOTHING