

Enlightenment – The Art of Science by photographer David McIntyre

Review by Stephen Young, Leith FM radio presenter

Now I am not going to lie to you, I really don't know much about art in the sense of science. When I first thought about 'the art of science' I had pictures of lab coats, doctors....(no not the television programme) and a ghastly reminder of my first year science teacher's breath. So I'll put my hands up and admit that my mind was pretty dark with assumption but something told me to go and see 'Enlightenment' for myself.

Now I am sort of brand new to the city and have been meaning to check out the Arts for a while now but I really didn't know where to start. So I did, I took a bus into town and found myself walking down Infirmary Street looking for Dovecot Studios. Which I found, just at the bottom of the road on the right and what a little gem I found.

Upon entering the studios the first thing to catch my eye, was in fact a very large eye and much bigger than my own. I was drawn to this first, maybe it wasn't supposed to be the first stop but I had to make peace with it or I would have had the feeling of being watched throughout my visit. On closer inspection 'Foresight' actually has a reflection of five wind turbines on the eye's iris. A look of what is to come, what is needed if we are to make the best use of the conditions Mother Nature gives us here in windy Scotland. This was an eye-opener to what was to come.

Enlightenment is what this exhibition is called and that is exactly what it does. It is an eclectic illumination of eye-catching information captured through the lens by the talented David McIntyre. What he delivers in every one of his 30 images is a trendy snapshot of the innovations of today's science. Every one of these conveys that Science is here and is very much part of the solution of the challenges that planet earth has. So it should be embraced and it got me thinking that maybe us humans should be a bit more appreciative of its efforts and less interested in the who's wearing what of glossy magazines.

It is a diverse look at the various ventures of Science concerning the more open issues of today e.g.: Climate change, Sustaining energy and Food sources to more underground issues e.g.: Soil examination, Enzyme mining and Rare breeds. With every concept comes a concise explanation of what Science is bringing, this is great. Great because they give you a simple explanation that's accessible for most of us to understand. They give you an opportunity to look forward, think and ask questions, which is positive.

Enlightenment certainly turned the dimmer up in my brain regarding these issues and David McIntyre has to be commended for remitting a fresh vision of the Art of Science. His crisp, colourful images made me realise that the future is now.

The exhibition ENLIGHTENMENT, has been developed by Moredun Research Institute; an animal health research institute based in Edinburgh and features a creative mix of arts and science images by Scottish photographer David McIntyre. The exhibition showcases the work of the research institutes forming the knowledgescotland partnership, funded by the Scottish Government.

ENLIGHTENMENT will be on display at the dovecot studios between 9th and 27th March. The gallery is open from Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am-5.30pm and admission is free. After exhibiting at the dovecot studios ENLIGHTENMENT will be displayed at the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh and various other venues throughout Scotland. For further information visit the enlightenment website – www.moredun.org.uk/enlightenment