

*Inferno* is an annual journal edited and produced by postgraduate students. The journal aims to present current research being undertaken by postgraduates in the visual arts both nationally and internationally.

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#### EDITORIAL

Welcome to another themed issue of *Inferno*. The articles in this volume all pertain to the visual culture of the Scandinavian and Baltic region. An area on the periphery of Europe but, as these articles demonstrate, not culturally parochial. The creativity of this region, as represented by these articles, is very diverse. However, a certain stubbornness in the face of adversity and a sustaining national pride may be traced, even among such disparate artists and projects. This can be seen variously in the refusal to let political oppression or economic difficulties hinder the development of creative expression and the exploration of new ideas, and in the celebration of national strengths and treasures, whilst pushing at the boundaries of expressive form.

The artists discussed within these pages all appear to unite an urge towards the most up-to-date, international developments, with a strong consciousness of their unique national environment. This union of the national with the international is one of the most fascinating aspects of this cosmopolitan, but patriotic, region.

It is my pleasure to continue the work of *Inferno*, introducing the writing of postgraduates, working in Scotland and elsewhere, who are exploring new areas of art historical research. For more information on *Inferno*, please contact me at [inferno@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:inferno@st-andrews.ac.uk), or have a look at our website at <http://www-ah.st-andrews.ac.uk/inferno/>