

## **SUNDERLAND ART GOES INTERNATIONAL**

Two Sunderland art organisations will be exhibiting work to thousands of visitors at one of the largest art fairs in the UK.

Cohesion Glassmakers Network and Studio Q will join galleries from around the UK and abroad to take part in the NewcastleGateshead Art Fair 09, held in the landmark Norman Foster designed building The Sage Gateshead from October 2 to October 4.

Studio Q is a recently opened studio space where artists can work as well as display their art. Cohesion Glassmakers supports and assists glass businesses and practitioners to develop their skills and create new opportunities for their artists.

Anne Tye, director of Cohesion Glassmakers Network said: "It's definitely one of the best-run and best marketed art fairs outside of London, attracting a great range of buyers and knowledgeable collectors, all in a world- class venue. I cannot recommend it enough."

Over 8,000 people visited the North East last year to attend the fair. Commercially speaking, the fair clocked in record sales with participating galleries selling hundreds of art works. Sales ranged from limited edition prints at under £100 to major works by Damien Hirst.

Andy Balman, co-director of the fair said: “The NewcastleGateshead Art Fair is a must for all visitors, art lovers and collectors along with those interested in browsing for their first investment.

“This annual event is a major destination for established names as well as up and coming artists. Together with partnerships developed over the past few years, the fair is well on its way to being on the international art fair map.”

Anne Tye said: “The fair provides our artists with an excellent opportunity to meet with buyers and other galleries on an international scale and boosts the Network's profile at both a regional and international level. We are all very much looking forward to this year's show.”

Frank Styles, artist and spokesperson for Studio Q said: “As a new company, it gives us the opportunity to promote our artists and studio space at a successful, well known art fair as well as form relationships and contacts with other galleries.

“We've heard great reports about the NewcastleGateshead Art Fair and its success over the past few years, so we thought it was imperative for us, as a new company, to take part this year. It also comes a week before we open our studio space to more artists, so were on the lookout for those who may be interested joining us.”

The fair will offer paintings, sculpture, photography and original prints from an extensive range of regional, national and international galleries all for sale from under £100 up to the several thousands.

Tickets are valid for any day, from Friday through to Sunday. Tickets bought in advance cost just £5 each via [ngartfair.com](http://ngartfair.com) or The Sage Gateshead Box office 0191 443 4661.

Alternatively tickets can be purchased at the door on the day for £6.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editor:** For further information go to [www.ngartfair.com](http://www.ngartfair.com),

[www.cohesionglassnetwork.org](http://www.cohesionglassnetwork.org) or contact [junglebricks@hotmail.com](mailto:junglebricks@hotmail.com) (Studio Q)