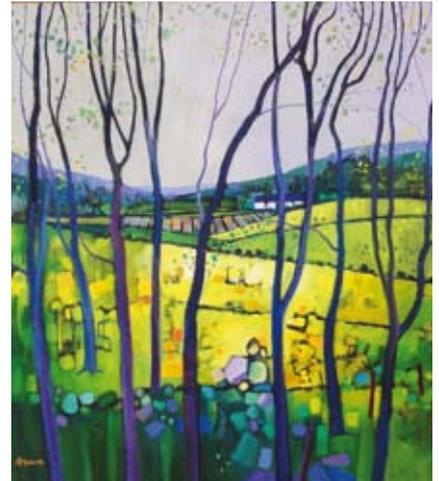


Books, Borders & Bikes

Traquair House in the Scottish Borders hosts an international thought and literary festival which brings together Scottish broadcasters, international writers and cultural leaders to discuss the literary, cultural and political issues of our time. This year's participants include Jonathan Powell, Magnus Linklater, Mariella Frostrup, Mark Thomas and David Starkey. There are also exhibitions and literary walks. Tickets cost £24 for a day pass, £45 for a weekend pass, children free. www.beyondbordersscotland.com



LAUREL GALLERY

Laurel Gallery in Edinburgh is holding its first ever solo show, starting off with the established artist Davy Brown, with a collection of his bold and distinctive oil landscapes of Scotland and Europe. The gallery will also be showcasing work by Scottish contemporary silversmith, Kirsty Eaglesfield, who works primarily in silver and enjoys exploring the different ways in which it can be textured and formed using techniques such as raising, forging and riveting. The exhibition runs from 21 August-late September. Laurel Gallery, 41 St Stephen Street, Edinburgh. Tel: 0131 226 5022, www.laurelgallery.co.uk



Lammermuir Festival

Venues across East Lothian, including the Museum of Flight, Winton House and a medieval church will host the second Lammermuir Festival, between 16-25 September. This year's festival features a veritable feast of music, from major artists, ensembles and orchestras – including virtuoso trumpet player, Alison Balsom, harpist Emily Hoile (pictured), the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and chamber ensembles the Hebrides and Scottish Ensemble. www.lammermuirfestival.co.uk



A RESIPOLE FOR ART

On the edge of Loch Sunart, Ardnamurchan, is Resipole Studios, a unique gallery that showcases work from a variety of contemporary Scottish artists. The gallery was founded by Andrew Sinclair in 2004, after he decided to convert an old byre on his family's farm into a venue for contemporary art. Since then, the Resipole Studios has gone from strength to strength and has received much acclaim for its diverse and colourful programme of exhibitions. The summer show is opening in August, with an array of fresh drawing and painting. The gallery is open 11am-6pm, Tues-Sun. www.resipolestudios.co.uk

YEAR OF THE RATTRAY

Renowned national artists are exhibiting alongside local and emerging talent at this year's Rattray Art Festival. Based in Rattray Hall, Blairgowrie on 27-28 August, the show builds on last year's inaugural event, which attracted over 25 artists and raised £3000 for RNLI. Amongst those involved are established names, including wildlife artists Alan Hayman and Keith Brown, sculptor Doug Cocker and landscape artist Philip Raskin, as well as local artists such as Ian Gordon, David Smith, Barbara Robertson, Michelle Hewitt and Barry McFarlane. Entry to the festival is free and artists will donate 20 per cent of their sales to RNLI and Wisecraft – a local mental health charity. Information about the festival can be found at www.rattrayartfestival.co.uk

