

# PRESS RELEASE

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### RAGS AND RICHES TRANSFORM RESCUED BUILDING IN UNIQUE EXHIBITION

Within only days of purchasing Greyladies chapel and launching a campaign to convert the building into a contemporary arts centre, Greyladies Arts Foundation has invited artists Katie Barton and Lucy Renshaw to create a unique installation within the chapel.

BartonRenshaw is a one-off exhibition to mark the beginning of Greyladies Arts Foundation's project to restore the chapel and establish a new arts centre for the community.

The exhibition is being sponsored by the Southampton office of Rok Development, the most active commercial property developer on the south coast. Rok Development is part of the Rok Group, which develops, builds and maintains buildings in local communities across the region.

Rok Development director Tim Titheridge said: "As a company Rok is dedicated to mould-breaking activity in our industry. Part of our commitment is to help develop sustainable and thriving communities, so there was a natural synergy in our sponsoring this first event for Greyladies Arts Foundation. I'm looking forward to the opening of BartonRenshaw on Saturday and have no doubt that it will attract a huge amount of interest."

The foundation has commissioned the artists to explore the current condition of the building, which was deconsecrated by the Portsmouth Diocese in May 2004. Barton and Renshaw - both final year students at the Royal College of Art - take colour, light and decay as their inspiration. Blurring the line between applied and fine art they create an environment that is both fun and welcoming as well as intriguing and unsettling.

Questioning ideas of home and transience, Katie Barton uses textiles to adorn an existing space. She uses space as her canvas and takes inspiration for her designs from the architecture of the building. Barton's work uses a wide variety of textiles to draw attention to the aspects of a structure that are often overlooked and therefore heightens the viewers' awareness of their surroundings.

Lucy Renshaw takes inspiration from her travels in South America and the Caribbean to create furniture that expresses a genuine joy in colour. Her work adds an instant exoticism to an ordinary space. Working with clashing colours and patterns, Renshaw creates striking objects that immediately provoke memories of an imagined paradise.

Artist Lucy Renshaw says: "Katie and I couldn't refuse this brilliant invitation from GAF to create an installation in this unique setting. The exhibition really sums up what BartonRenshaw is all about. It's about spontaneous, original design inspired by fantastic buildings. There couldn't be a better opportunity to express this."

Working together Barton and Renshaw create a sumptuous environment that evokes both a faded elegance and a yearning for the exotic. The exhibition forces the viewer to search for treasure as well as providing instant gratification. BartonRenshaw is a wonderland full of secrets and pure aesthetic pleasure.



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[www.gaf.org.uk](http://www.gaf.org.uk)

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GAF spokesperson Jo Bowler says: "It's been an incredible 10 months for GAF. Through the community we have raised £90,000 to ensure that the chapel is kept for public use. It has also been a pleasure to work with two such exciting artists at the beginning of their careers, especially as it coincides with the launch of GAF's restoration project for the building. We wish to thank all our supporters and our sponsors, ROK Development, and welcome everyone to visit this exhibition and see our plans for the new arts centre."

**For further  
information about  
GAF and the  
exhibition visit**

[www.gaf.org.uk](http://www.gaf.org.uk)

**BartonRenshaw will be open to the public from 9 April - 7 May 2006**

**Opening hours: Wednesday to Sunday 11am - 5pm (closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, but open on Easter Monday, 17 April)**

**Admission: FREE**

**Location: Greyladyes Chapel, School Road, Bursledon SO31 8BX**

**Artists' talk: 9 April at 3pm (Admission FREE)**

**Exhibition sponsored by ROK Development**

#### Notes to Editors

1. Greyladyes Arts Foundation (GAF) is a charity set up by locals to safeguard the chapel for the local community and establish an arts centre. With the help and generosity of their supporters, GAF raised £90,000 to buy the building in less than 10 months. Both Bursledon Parish Council and Eastleigh Borough Council donated £6,000 and the remaining £78,000 was raised through donations from the public.

2. The chapel now needs careful restoration; the arts centre is due for completion in the autumn of 2007. The arts centre will host an exciting programme of exhibitions and events covering a wide range of arts related activities. These will include visual art, music, film, photography and local history. There will also be a diverse selection of classes, seminars and lectures for all ages and abilities. Many activities for children will be provided, including Saturday morning art clubs and a programme of events planned for the school holidays.

3. Bursledon is a picturesque village in Hampshire on the river Hamble with a long history of boatbuilding. Nelson's flagship at the battle of Copenhagen, "The Elephant" was built there in 1786. More recently the village became famous for its starring role in the television series "Howard's Way".

4. Greyladyes chapel was originally built as a ballroom for the main house (which, at that time was called Elm Lodge). Later it was used as a meeting place for the Parish Council and other local bodies. In 1906, the then owner of the house, Mrs Shawe-Storey, who had renamed it Greyladyes after a ghost that was said to haunt her childhood home in Northumberland, converted the ballroom into a Roman Catholic chapel.

5. During World War II Greyladyes was requisitioned by the armed services and, after a visit to the local hostelry, some enthusiastic soldiers climbed the bell tower and requisitioned one of the bells. After the war the chapel (with its one remaining bell) was sold to the Diocese of Portsmouth and served the Catholic community of Bursledon until May 2004, when it became redundant and was duly deconsecrated.

6. Lucy Renshaw and Katie Barton have recently established their own spacial design partnership that is also called BartonRenshaw. BartonRenshaw creates spontaneous, original design inspired by fantastic buildings. For more information see [www.bartonrenshaw.co.uk](http://www.bartonrenshaw.co.uk).

7. Rok Development is part of the Rok Group. The company has set out to be mould-breaking in its industry by focusing relentlessly on its customers' needs and the service it provides when it develops, builds and maintains properties in its local communities. Rok Development develops industrial, retail and leisure premises. For more information see [www.rokgroup.co.uk](http://www.rokgroup.co.uk).

Greyladyes Arts Foundation is a charitable company. Charity no. 1112007 Company no. 5514689