

# Time traveller — Andy Hope 1930 at Inverleith House

Paul Nesbitt, Curator of Inverleith House

When artists first visit the Gardens to research or install an exhibition for Inverleith House it is always intriguing to discover which aspects most engage them. In 2005 the American artist Roni Horn, who lives in Manhattan and Reykjavik, was especially interested in the way trees grew out of the ground; living in those cities had never before been able to observe this.

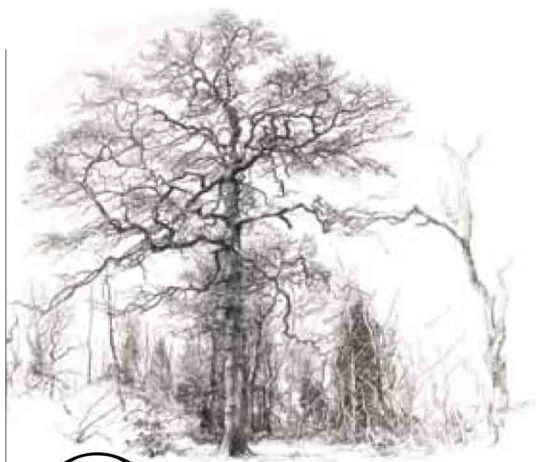
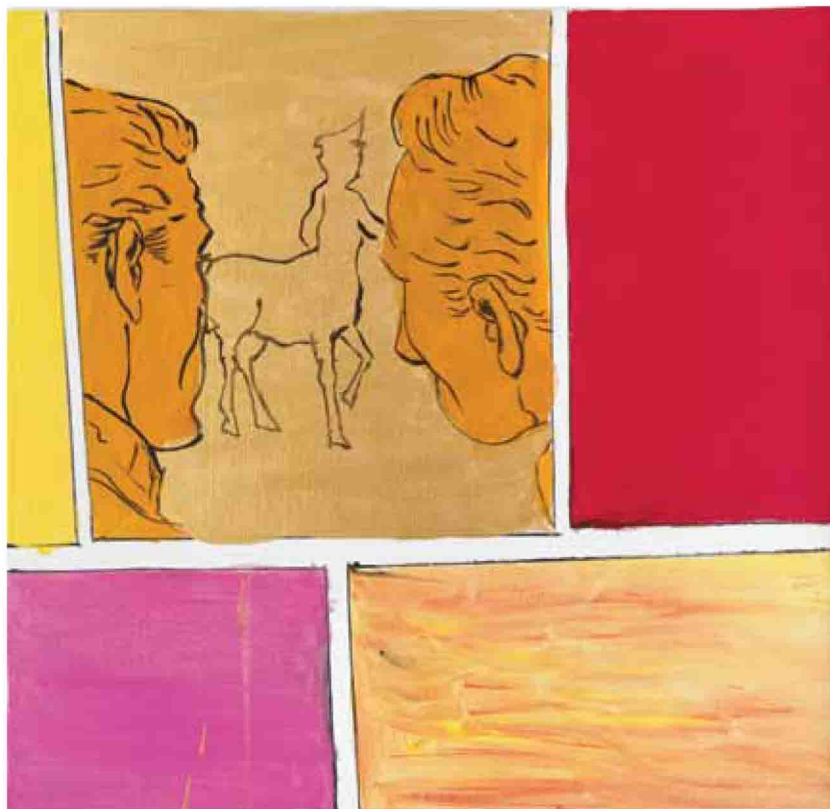
When the German artist Andy Hope 1930 visited the Edinburgh Garden earlier this year, he expressed a particular interest in seeing the Fern House, because of his long-held interest in early forms of plants and animals and the notion of what life on earth over 300 million years ago may have looked like. Even his adopted name reflects a fascination with time, 1930 referring to the decline of Modernism – a turning

point, which is at the same time marked by the rise of the mass media and the comic strip.

Andy Hope 1930 interprets such experiences through a lifelong fascination and engagement with popular culture – specifically the storylines and images found in comic books (such as *Batman* and *The Incredible Hulk*), fantasy and science fiction (such as *The Twilight Zone*). He will often use paintings found in charity shops as the basis for his own paintings, making surreal additions using collage and often incorporating texts in order to produce works that are both mysterious and haunting.

Whilst Roni Horn's new-found interest in our trees did not ultimately find its way into her exhibition here, there is little doubt that the exhibition of new work by Andy Hope 1930 at Inverleith House this winter will provide visitors with a new perspective of the Garden and perhaps even life on earth itself.

**Below:** Andy Hope 1930, *Medley 11*, 2011, Acrylic on Canvasboard, 60 x 60 cm / 23 5/8 x 23 5/8 inches. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth.



# One Oak

Elinor Gallant, Exhibitions Officer

Autumn 2012 sees the culmination of the three-year OneOak project, an initiative by the Sylva Foundation, that follows the full life story of one oak tree. An oak tree was felled on the Blenheim Estate in January 2010, and the wood from this single tree has been distributed to artists and craftsmen over the last two years in order to show the diverse uses to which the wood can be put. Over thirty products have been made from the tree, including fine furniture, charcoal, jewellery, joinery, blocks for wood printing, firewood and bioenergy, boats, sawdust for food smoking, buildings and musical instruments.

At the same time an extensive scientific study was made of the tree and its impact on the environment during its lifetime. Artists have painted, photographed and been inspired to write music about this tree. In a finale of the project all the art, science and products will be brought together at the John Hope Gateway from 12 October to 2 December. To find out more about the project visit [www.OneOak.info](http://www.OneOak.info)

**Above:** Sarah Simblet, *OneOak Tree*, 2010, ink and graphite on paper.