



## Press Release

Date: Wednesday 2nd October 2013

### International art and design academics head to Leeds

Leeds is to host a major international gathering of leading academics, artists and designers from across Europe. The annual conference of the Group for International Design Education (GIDE) will take place at Leeds College of Art on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Delegates will be in attendance from specialist arts and design institutions from Germany, Belgium, Slovenia, Switzerland, Scotland, Italy and England.

The GIDE group of institutions works to develop and share best practice in art and design education across Europe. Each year a theme is set by GIDE members for students to research and develop work around – this year's theme being 'Celebration'. Best practice around how students will be addressing this theme will be shared at the conference along with planning for a 5 day workshop for students and tutors which will be held in Mechelen, Belgium in February, and which will close with students presenting their work to over 400 leading artists, designers and dignitaries.

**Simon Thorpe, Director of Studies - Professional and External Development, Leeds College of Art said:** "As a founder member of GIDE, Leeds College of Art has been able to offer numerous opportunities for students and staff to work with partner institutions from across Europe. This has enabled students to exhibit their work overseas, share ideas and develop international networks of contacts. I'd like to welcome all the GIDE partners for what I'm sure will be a very stimulating two days."

**For further information contact:**

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**Editor's Notes**

Leeds College of Art

Founded in 1842, Leeds College of Art is an innovative institution that has changed the way art qualifications are taught and structured in Britain today.

We combine academic and vocational excellence in all our undergraduate programmes. Our focus is to put student's talents to practical use, so their creativity is channelled towards a successful career or postgraduate study.

Our students and staff create a unique community of vibrant, ambitious and deeply creative artists and designers. We are based in Leeds, an internationally acclaimed centre for teaching and learning in addition to being a leading hub for creative and digital industries.

[www.leeds-art.ac.uk](http://www.leeds-art.ac.uk)