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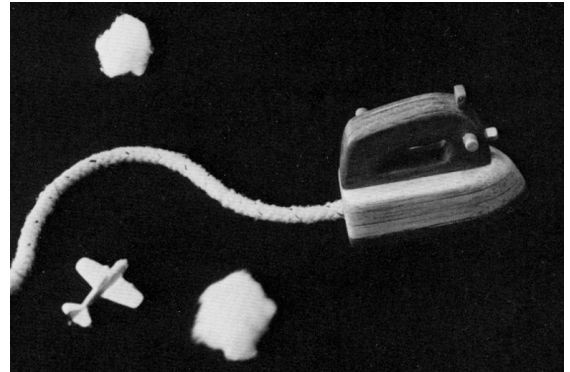
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PRESS RELEASE

GALLERY I & II

IAN HAMILTON FINLAY: *TWILIGHT REMEMBERS*

2 August – 27 October 2012



Ingleby Gallery's exhibition for the 2012 Edinburgh Art Festival begins with a re-discovered moment of genius by the late Ian Hamilton Finlay. *Carrier Strike* (1977) is a classic Finlayesque clash of the heroic and the domestic: in this case an epic air/sea battle played out on the surface of an ironing board. Photographed by Carl Heideken and set to music by John Purser, the ironing board becomes an aircraft carrier, surrounded by destroyer irons, and small model planes amongst cotton wool clouds. Like all Finlay's best work, the ideas are layered and delivered with gentle humour.

Three boulders, carved with the names of Japanese war planes become stepping stones from the war-zone of *Carrier Strike* to the garden works that dominate the rest of the exhibition, recalling the most familiar of Finlay's 'detached sentences on gardening' that *Certain gardens are described as retreats when they are really attacks*.

The garden, gardening, and specifically man's relationship with and against nature, provided the backdrop for Finlay's life's work. At the heart of this exhibition are a group of garden works that turn the gallery into a colony of Little Sparta, the classical garden and self-styled 'Raspberry Republic' that Finlay built over 40 years and which cradled so many of his artistic and philosophical beliefs. Carved stones, garden stiles, brick paths and bronze spades are marshalled into the service of Finlay's ideas, interwoven with reference to the classical world, the French revolution, the sea and the world at war.

This summer's Ingleby Gallery exhibition will be the first of several Finlay celebrations for 2012; followed most notably by a major presentation of Finlay's work in Brazil, at the São Paulo Biennale in September, and in London at Tate Britain in November. On Fridays during this summer's Edinburgh Art Festival the Little Sparta Trust will run bus tours from the Ingleby Gallery to Little Sparta in the Pentland Hills, an hour south west of the city.

For further information about the exhibition, the garden and a series of Ian Hamilton Finlay inspired events for the 2012 Edinburgh Art Festival please contact the gallery.

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For further information about the exhibition program and related events, please contact the Gallery on 0131 556 4441 or info@inglebygallery.com