



# Edinburgh

ERASMUS PLUS  
2019

# WHO IS THE IDENTITY?

PHILOSOPHY AND ART  
THE PROBLEM OF IDENTITY

# DAVID HUME

Local tradition dictates that a touch of David Hume's toe will bring good luck, though the practice ironically defies the philosopher's vehement rejection of superstition.

Since 1997, when the public statue was erected at the top of [Edinburgh](#)'s

Royal Mile, it's become an international point of interest for handsy passersby.

Shortly after artist Alexander Stoddart's sculpture of the great Scottish Enlightenment thinker was installed in front of the High Court Building, philosophy students began making pilgrimages to his likeness and rubbing his toe for luck and wisdom. Over two decades later, hordes of tourists crowd around Hume's foot at all times of day, rendering the sacred toe a shiny golden sphere from all the contact.

This popular Edinburgh landmark portrays Hume as an ancient Greek philosopher. While he was neither ancient nor Greek, Hume was also an influential historian, economist, and writer who lived in the Scottish capital from 1711 to 1776.

One of the most influential figures to come out of the Scottish Enlightenment, Hume was invested in the natural sciences, the necessity of government, and empirical observation. In staunch opposition to superstition, which "rouses the vain fears of

unhappy mortals," he wrote in his six-volume *History of*

*England*, Hume would likely frown upon his statue's ritual significance.



The problem of identity starting from the '600: it has begun in short, to speak of "personal identity" and the authors are philosophers like John Locke, between the '600 and the' 700, and **David Hume**, around the middle of the '700. In particular, Hume dedicates to the personal identity a whole very important chapter of his **Treaty on the human nature**: here the concept of identity leaves the spheres of ontology to move instead on a more psychological level.

# ARTS AND IDENTITY

**EDINBURGH MUSEUM**  
<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/>

# fringe

EDIN  
BURGH  
ART  
FEST  
IVAL 2019

[edinburghartfestival.com](http://edinburghartfestival.com)

2-26 August 2019

EDINBURGH  
INTERNATIONAL  
FESTIVAL



Bringing together national institutions alongside leading contemporary art spaces, commercial art galleries and artist-run initiatives, our festival is born out of the rich reservoir of creativity, knowledge, expertise and passion for the visual arts that characterises our city all year round.

Our 16th edition continues to demonstrate the strength and vitality of visual arts in Edinburgh, with two important new spaces presenting their first Art Festival exhibitions, major survey shows, a host of new commissions by Scottish and international artists, and the best emerging talent.

With the work of over 300 artists from around the world presented at venues throughout the city, as ever, the breadth and range of our programme opens up space for surprising connections across time, geography, art form and of course, the city of Edinburgh itself.

Sorcha Carey, Director

#EdArtFest  
[edinburghartfestival.com](http://edinburghartfestival.com)

Founded in 2004 and now in its 16th edition, Edinburgh Art Festival is the platform for the visual arts at the heart of Edinburgh's August festivals, bringing together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces in a city-wide celebration of the very best in visual art.

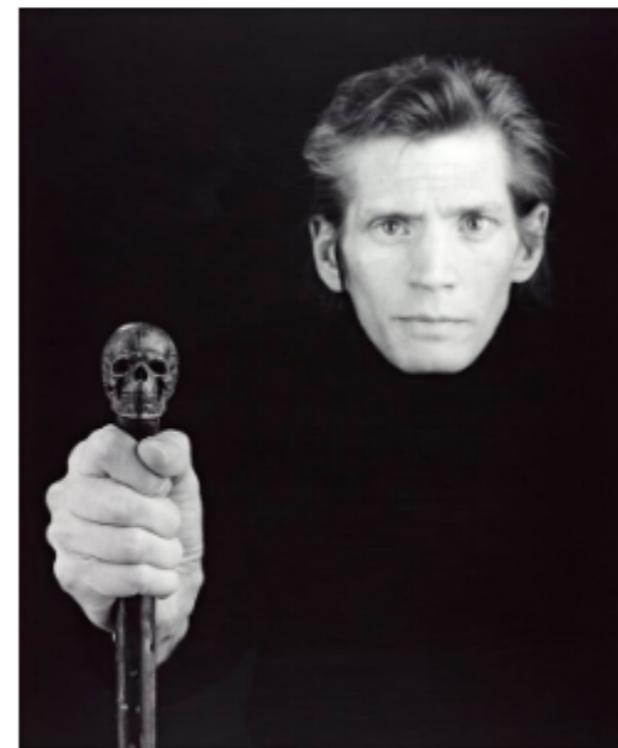
Each year, the Art Festival features leading international and UK artists alongside the best emerging talent, major survey exhibitions of historic figures, and a special programme of newly commissioned artworks that respond to public and historic sites in the city. And best of all, the vast majority of the programme is free to attend.

Registered charity no. SC038360.  
Company registration no. SC314596.



**Self Portrait**

Robert Mapplethorpe



**Self Portrait**

Robert Mapplethorpe



**Space<sup>2</sup>, Providence,  
Rhode Island**

Francesca Woodman

30 National Galleries of Scotland

Scottish National Portrait Gallery

1 Queen Street, EH2 1JD

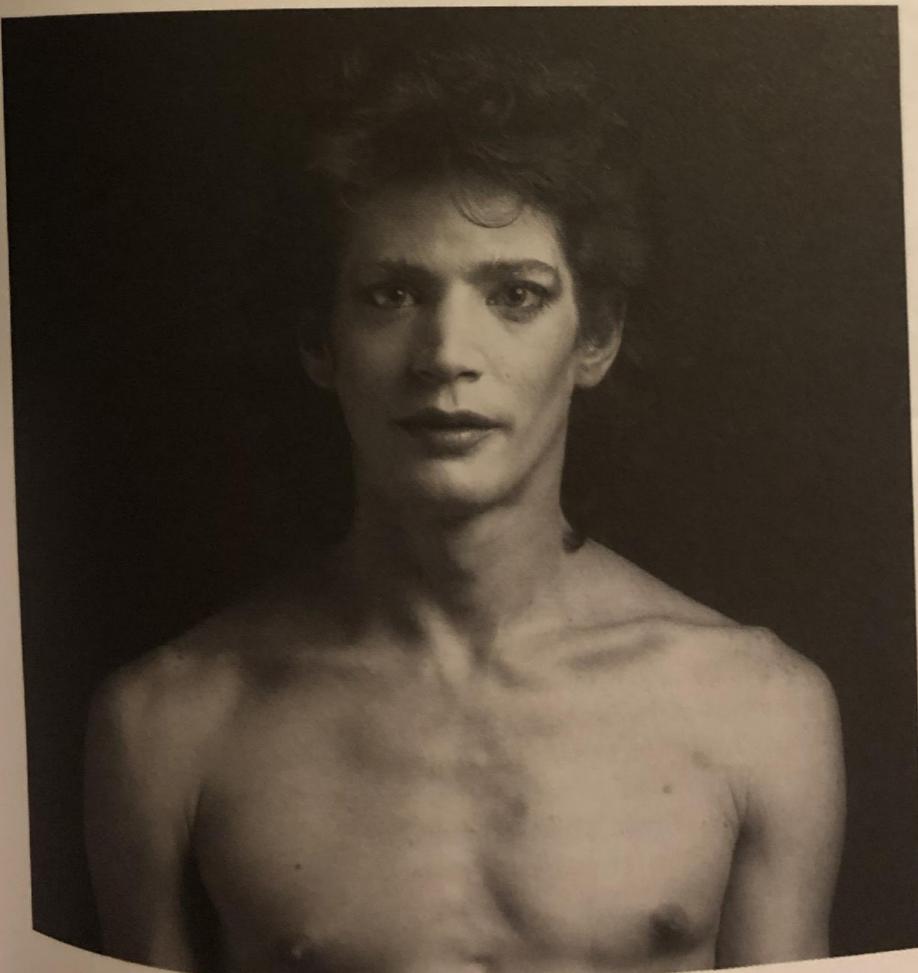
## ARTIST ROOMS Self Evidence: Photographs by Woodman, Arbus and Mapplethorpe

6 April–20 October

Daily, 10am–5pm (July), 10am–6pm (August) | FREE

With a particular focus on self-portraiture and representation, this exhibition celebrates the work of three of the twentieth century's most influential photographers: Francesca Woodman, Diane Arbus and Robert Mapplethorpe. It explores the connections and similarities between these artists, each of whom produced bodies of work that were revolutionary, ground-breaking and at times controversial.

The ARTIST ROOMS collection was established by Anthony d'Offay in 2008 through The d'Offay Donation, with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Art Fund, and the Scottish and British Governments.



© Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.

# 'Photographs by Woodman, Arbus and Mapplethorpe' at Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

With a particular focus on self-portraiture and representation, this exhibition celebrates the work of three of the twentieth century's most influential photographers: Francesca Woodman, Diane Arbus and Robert Mapplethorpe.

Image: Robert Mapplethorpe, Self Portrait, 1980 © Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.



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