

NEWS RELEASE

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**Creative collaboration blossoms in new exhibition for Portobello**

Portobello artists Heather Potten and Esther Kuck have joined forces to create a new exhibition celebrating Autumn. In **Felt & Flower**, natural and felted blooms will combine in a vibrant new collection of floral and felt art.

Feltmaker Heather Potten and award-winning floral artist Esther Kuck will collaborate on a number of colourful, textural pieces, combining handmade felted flowers with seasonal blooms and foliage.

Heather's flamboyant wall hangings - impressionistic depictions of flowers in rich reds, oranges, purples - will complement Esther's free-standing sculptures which combine flowers, such as hydrangeas, with autumn foliage and felt flowers. Felt vases - with a removable glass - will add new texture to floral arrangements.

**Felt & Flower** will take place at The 'Wild' Flower Shop, 90 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh from 20 September to 18 October 2014.

Heather Potten said today: "Esther saw photos of my work online and was fascinated by the alchemy of turning wool into tactile 3D shapes, such as flowers. The beauty of felt is that, just as flowers are used in floristry, wools can be mixed and layered to create warm and vibrant textiles, as well as unusual and dramatic forms. We also like the idea of two Portobello artists working together to celebrate the rich colours and textures of Autumn."

All felt works are available for sale.

To launch the exhibition, Heather and Esther will host two previews on Saturday 20 September from 6 to 8pm and on Sunday 21 September from 3 to 5pm.

Ends

### Notes to Editors:

Heather Potten has developed her style of vibrant feltmaking during 10 years of study and experimentation. From her studio at St Margaret's House in Edinburgh, she creates collections of wearable felt, jewellery - including flower brooches - and 3-dimensional artworks, combining materials such as wool, silk and cotton. She exhibits in galleries and exhibitions around Scotland and the north of England.

Esther Kuck trained as a florist in her native Germany over 25 years ago. Fusing continental and Scottish floristry style, and using natural and seasonal materials, Esther opened her popular The 'Wild' Flower Shop in Portobello in 2012. Her last exhibition, Shapes and Textiles, was at St Giles Cathedral in 2009 where she created full size floral installations.

Felt is a unique, non-woven textile made from wool fibres. Felt making is the process during which wool fibres shrink and come together to form a dense mat when subjected to heat, humidity, friction and a change of alkalinity. The art of feltmaking predates woven cloth and is thought to date back to Neolithic times.

### Tags:

Edinburgh, Portobello, art and business, local event, exhibition, textile art, floristry

### Photographs:

Photographs of previous work are available. Because of the nature of the work, exhibition pieces will be photographed in the week beginning 15 September 2014.

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