



**FORTH PORTS PLC**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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### **ASIAN SPICE BROUGHT TO LEITH**

Ocean Terminal Shopping Centre in Leith is hosting three Asian themed art exhibitions as part of the Mela festival this month.

The top floor of the shopping centre will be transformed into a gallery where the free exhibitions will be open to public. The displays will be in Leith for the entire month of August, tying in with the Mela Festival which runs from 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> August.

One of the exhibitions, 'Soho Road to the Punjab' is a Scottish premiere. It tells the story, through a photographic showcase, of the emergence of contemporary bhangra music in the UK.

Bhangra music comes from the Indian subcontinent Punjab. In the past twenty years it has been introduced to music lovers' worldwide thanks to artists the likes of Kelly Rowland and Nelly Furtado to Dr Dre and Timbaland incorporating the unique sound into their songs.

Another exhibition, 'Art Masala: a spicy blend of art from India' features a collection of contemporary paintings from independent artists around India, whilst 'Dimension & Expression' focuses on Indian classical dance and the hand gestures that are renowned with it.

Mela Festival Director Liam Sinclair says, "The visual arts in this year's Edinburgh Mela Festival are sure to excite and enthral. We're thrilled to be showcasing this vibrant mix of Asian art in Ocean Terminal – a destination that attracts thousands of visitors each day – and we hope shoppers as well as Mela visitors will find these free shows informative and inspiring.

"The Scottish premiere of the Soho Road to Punjab, celebrating the story of bhangra in Britain, will prove fascinating for avid fans and strangers to the music alike. Art Masala will give a good flavour of contemporary paintings from across India, and Dimension & Expression brings the work of Edinburgh-based Sushil Mangaonkar to the festival."

The three exhibitions are open to public, on the second floor of Ocean Terminal from now until the end of the month.



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### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Ocean Terminal is a unique shopping experience at Edinburgh's waterfront. Regarded by many as Edinburgh's most relaxing shopping environment it has over 70 shops to choose from. Anchored by Debenhams and M&S Simply Food, its stylish and calming ambience is supported by its unusual mix of coffee bars, restaurants, spa and beauty shops and retailers like White Stuff, Gap, Fat Face, Crew Clothing and Ligne Roset.

With over 1,500 free car parking spaces it is located just 3 miles from the City Centre and sits at the heart of the UK's largest waterfront development.