

# PRESS RELEASE



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## DEUTSCHE BANK FESTIVAL OF CREATIVE ARTS

### JERSEY EISTEDDFOD

**Jersey, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2006**

The Deutsche Bank Festival of Creative Arts, the Jersey Eisteddfod, takes place from **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March** at the **RJA & HS Exhibition Hall, Trinity**.

The Exhibition will be open to the public from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> until Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March from 10am – 6 p.m. It will close on Sunday at 4 p.m. This year's categories include Adult and Youth Art and Craft, Floral Art, Needlework, Photography and Schools' Art and Craft.

There is a nominal entry fee of £1 for adults. Children are free of charge. During the Festival its visitors can see nearly 3,000 works of art and craft on display. As well as craft demonstrations there will be light lunches and refreshments available at the venue.

**Christine Hamon**, General Administrator for the Jersey Eisteddfod commented: *"It's a great honour to be a part of such an exciting festival. There are countless talented people whose ages range from under 8 to over 80 years participating and the Jersey Eisteddfod gives them an opportunity to share their particular talent with the whole community"*.

In general, Festival Adjudicators come are from outside the island to maintain neutrality. Festival entrants have the opportunity of having their work appraised by specialists in their field and receive professional and valuable feedback and comments.

**Sari Cuming**, Marketing Manager at Deutsche Bank expressed: *“At Deutsche Bank we believe that a passion is a vital part of our performance. The Jersey Eisteddfod, without any doubt confirms our belief and acts as a hallmark for local artistic excellence and as a reminder that high standards today are just as important as they have ever been.”*

The Festival is definitely worth a visit and the Jersey Eisteddfod would like to express its gratitude to Deutsche Bank and the Jersey Arts Trust for their support, thus enabling the Festival to continue to introduce the wide variety of arts and crafts produced in our community.

Ends.

For further details contact:

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or visit the Eisteddfod's website at [www.jerseyeisteddfod.org.je](http://www.jerseyeisteddfod.org.je)

**Issued by:** Christine Hamon, General Administrator, Jersey Eisteddfod, Tel: 854529

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- 1 The Jersey Eisteddfod is sponsored by the Jersey Arts Trust and Deutsche Bank
- 2 History of the Jersey Eisteddfod.

The Jersey Eisteddfod was founded in 1908 by a former Dean of Jersey who saw its competitive classes as a means by which the speech, presentation, and musical standards of his fellow islanders might be improved. With the exception of the years of the two world wars, it has taken place annually ever since.

After its inception it expanded rapidly to encompass other disciplines and crafts, with dance, art, needlework, photography being early additions, which still thrive. It is a notable feature of the liveliness and flexibility of the organisation that sections are discarded when no longer applicable [as laundry, shorthand] but others are adopted and integrated [as youth creative arts and crafts and flower arranging]. The advent of television in the sixties had a depressing effect on entries, but this trend was

reversed by the middle of the eighties. From that time there has been a steady increase in interest.

There are currently two Festivals held annually: The Festival of Creative Arts, held in March [hereafter referred to as the 'Spring Festival'], and the Festival of Performing Arts held in November [hereafter referred to as the 'Autumn Festival'].

Each Festival attracts nearly 3,000 entries, and, via teachers, relations and supporters, it is estimated that the Jersey Eisteddfod reaches a minimum of 10% of the population at any one time. With its continuing growth, it has been necessary to move to larger premises for the Spring Festival, and to operate simultaneously at two venues in the autumn.

There are currently thirteen autonomous sections: Arts and crafts as Adult, Primary School, Secondary School and Youth Creative Arts; Photography, Flower arranging, Handwriting and Needlework; Dance, Music, English Speech and Drama, Jersey Norman-French and French. Each section sets its own syllabus, engages one or more adjudicators and supervises the entries and the management of the competitions. It is responsible for communications with the competitors.

The Management of the Jersey Eisteddfod is accomplished by volunteers who either hold office, or who are enrolled to assist [as in stewarding] on an occasional basis. There are currently over 100 persons recorded as having official status. 1998 the Jersey Eisteddfod celebrated its 90th anniversary in a day-long event held at Samarès Manor and the year 2008 will see its centenary.