

Artist makes abrasive point in city protest

Dozens of scourers left at feet of statue by upset Spaniard

By GRAEME MURRAY

THE mystery of Donald Dewar and the red saucepan scourers sounds like a chapter from an Enid Blyton novel.

And the surreal sight of a pile of washing scrubbers left at the feet of Scotland's first First Minister left Glasgow shoppers scratching their heads.

More scrubber mountains have also appeared then disappeared outside the Gallery of Modern Art leaving visitors bemused and confused.

But now the bizarre mystery has been solved after it emerged the scourers are part of a protest and art installation by Spanish-born artist Dani Marti who now lives in the city.

He claims culture chiefs at the Gallery of Modern Art censored and cancelled his exhibition Disclosure which was supposed to be included in the Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transsexual film program.

And now he plans to lay red scourers at other landmarks and public spaces across the city such as parks, public buildings and stations in protest at his treatment.

The art installations or "islands" form part of the Glasgow festival which started

yesterday and will appear in various outdoor locations without warning.

A spokesman for Glasgow said: "They are going to be left in areas across the city over the next week in the run up to the Glasgow! festival. The whole idea is they will appear and disappear at various public spaces.

"They are a kind of silent protest. Dani feels that his work has been censored by GoMA. The gallery had decided

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that certain parts of his work they did not want to show."

A spokesman for Culture and Sport Glasgow said: "The sh[OUT] programme is the fourth in our acclaimed series focusing on Contemporary Art and Human Rights at GoMA.

"The nature of some of the exhibits, and more specifically, certain elements of the outreach programme have provoked a response that has overtaken both the art and the purpose it serves.

"In order to reframe the debate, a weekend of film and discussion at Tramway will be held and Dani's work will be included. We respect his decision to withdraw his installation at GoMA."

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The red saucepan scourers have appeared at the feet of Scotland's first First Minister Donald Dewar in Glasgow

Dani Marti has left scourers as part of a silent protest after claiming he was censored