



**Minutes of the 122nd AGM of the Society of Scottish Artists  
Out of the Blue Drill Hall, 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh  
Saturday 18 March 2017, 1.00pm**

**1. Apologies:**

Miriam Vickers, Andrea Geile, Ian McKenzie Smith, Gavin Johnston, Elaine Allison, Robert McCormack, Chrissie Heughan, Kate Henderson, Jenny Smith, Rick Ballard, Judith Rowan, Olive Dean, Deirdre Robertson, Peter Russell, Tessa Clowney, Nicola Henderson, Anita Hutchison, Fiona Hutchison, Tom Allan, Lynn Cowan, Diane Young, Christopher Wood, Liz Douglas, Carmen Ambrozevich, Louise Ritchie, Catherine Sargeant.

**Present:**

Gayle Nelson (President), Sharon Quigley (Vice President), Paul Charlton (Vice President), Calum Buchanan, Katharine Aarrestad, Rowena S Comrie, Silvana Maclean, David Faithfull, Ruth Nicol, Norman McBeath, Anne Forte, Gerry Smith, Kirsty Lorenz, Aleksandra Kargul, Jill Bennett, Alan Bond, Ingrid Bell, Julia Mee, Allan Robertson, Liz Fraser, Eona M Aitken, James Lumsden, Diana Hope, Norman Sutton Hibbert, Jane Shanks, Lys Hansen, Andy McIntosh, Graeme Swanson, Mary Morrisson, Su Grierson, Jane Murray.

**In Attendance:** Lynne Mackenzie

**2. Minutes:**

The minutes of the last AGM held on 20th March 2016 were presented and accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed	Sharon Quigley
Seconded	Paul Charlton

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Election of Committee Members**

President, Gayle Nelson is standing down. Vice President Sharon Quigley to take on the position of President.

Two Committee Members are standing down having completed their three-year term: Katharine Aarrestad and Elaine Allison. The President thanked them for their contribution to the Society.

Gerry Smith will be co-opted to bring experience of digital media to Council.

Six new members have been voted onto Council: Professional Members Rowena S Comrie, Silvana Maclean, David Faithfull, Ruth Nicol, Norman McBeath and Anne Forte.

Council have co-opting four further volunteers to assist with specific tasks, James Lumsden, Alan Bond and Jana Emburey.

The President formally welcomed the new Committee Members.

**5. President's Address**

The 2016 Annual exhibition was a great success attracting many submissions from artists. We were impressed by the commitment from artists who installed their work to a very high standard within a very tight schedule. We thank all the artists who submitted works and who took part in the exhibition.

2015 SSA Award winner, Juliana Capes created a particularly impressive installation, "Diaspora (paradiso)", of lost umbrellas, sourced from lost property departments, which soared to the ceiling of the galleries. The work that attracted much attention and we were delighted to support her in the realisation of this ambitious work.

The 2016 SSA Award winner is Tom Stephenson and we look forward to exhibiting new work developed by Tom for the 2018 exhibition. The SSA Council has agreed to find a way to offer an amount of money with the award

to contribute to the creation of new work. Tom will work closely with a member of council who will provide a degree of mentoring.

Ten artists were awarded the SSA New Graduate Award and invited to exhibit as part of the exhibition. The quality of works was very good. This award continues to offer new artists a valuable opportunity to exhibit.

Our partnership with New Media continued with Artist collective ~in the fields presenting the new work 'criònan'.

Two performance works were included in the exhibition. Anya Gleizer presented 'Dionysus Lives', a procession through the streets of Edinburgh and ending at the RSA Galleries, was also viewed online and in the gallery via a live feed. While Michael Popper performed a new performance/installation work entitled '52'.

We were pleased to see and a good selection of digital artworks in the exhibition.

The exhibition catalogue and branding of the exhibition was undertaken by a professional designer. The catalogue was produced to address concerns raised at last years AGM of lack of printed catalogue at the previous exhibition. The exhibition website was produced by SSA Administrator, Lynne Mackenzie.

For 2016, we again engaged the services of a freelance PR expert who secured good coverage in a variety of media. The PR package was affordable and proved successful.

We are looking forward to new exhibitions by awardees of the Meffan Exhibition Prize and the Scottish Art Club Exhibition Award, Kirsty Lorenz and Cecile Simonis.

Our partnership with Engramme continues. A call for members to apply for the next exchange to Quebec will be issued as we select artists for the 2018 exchange.

Aleksandra Kargul undertook the Eichstätt Lithography Residency residency in Bavaria, Germany. She also presented a talk about the residency at Edinburgh Printmakers. We are working to expand how we market this opportunity and open it up to more artists working in lithography to apply.

Intranquility, an exhibition of SSA members work, saw great success in Ullapool and, due to this success, is now touring to Fire Station Creative in Dunfermline and then to Peebles. Thanks to David Forster and Katharine Aarrestad for curating and organising the exhibition, Sue Grierson and Liz Douglas for finding new venues.

Twenty artists took part in the curated exhibition, Exquisite Corpse curated by Katharine Aarrestad and Paul Charlton. The call for submissions to the exhibition was very well received. A social event took place during the exhibition with a demonstration by Jessica Copping of egg tempera technique.

These exhibitions provided an opportunity for SSA members to exhibit throughout the year. Satellite exhibitions attract new members to the SSA and help to keep the Society sustainable. They also help raise the profile of the SSA in different areas of the country.

There was a healthy response from the artist members wishing to be considered for Professional Membership. A good number of applications were received and thirteen artists selected. The artists are Andrea Geile, Anne Forte, Barry McGlashan, Cate Inglis, Cecile Simonis, James Lumsden, Jana Emburey, Jenny Pope, Kyra Clegg, Lindsey Lavender, Martin Nelson, Paola McClure, Tom Allan.

President thanked Council and membership for the opportunity for being President of the SSA and for the support shown during her time on SSA council.

## **6. Incoming President's Introduction**

On behalf of Council and members, incoming President Sharon Quigley thanked Gayle Nelson for an outstanding contribution to the Society as President, vice president and a member of Council. Under Gayle's presidency, the SSA has flourished, attracted new members presented new exhibitions and formed new and exciting partnerships.

Sharon introduced new members of the council who are all talented artists who bring a variety of skills and experience to Council and are involved in arts networks and organisations across Scotland. Importantly, some are from further afield and will help spread the reach of the Society across Scotland.

The council are charged with navigating the Society through some difficult times in coming years. It is essential that the SSA continues to provide a platform for exchange and support, to promote and create opportunities nationally and internationally for its members.

As the National Galleries of Scotland re-programme to accommodate a substantial Capital project, access the Royal Scottish Academy for the next Annual Exhibition will see the Upper Galleries dually occupied by SSA and Visual Art Scotland, with RSW occupying the lower galleries.

The galleries will not be split down the middle; plans are already underway for a more integrated approach between SSA and VAS to ensure the upcoming Annual Exhibition is the very best showcase of contemporary art.

Already forging ahead with plans for a new collaboration with An Lanntair, James Lumsden, who is based between Edinburgh and Lewis, is working with Alex Boyd, Artist Coordinator at An Lanntair to curate a Hebridean Showcase for inclusion in the next Annual Exhibition.

Council member Aleksandra Kargul is currently developing an SSA Polish Printmaking Show to be held in the city of Olsztyn in North West Poland, which will continue the SSA's strong Scottish-Polish Links.

Support for printmaking is extended not only with the Eichstadt Lithography Prize and Engramme Exchange but also with a new prize from Intaglio London. We also look forward to promoting our new exhibition prize with &Gallery.

Members are encouraged to come forward with ideas and initiatives.

We welcome Lynne Mackenzie who took up the position of Administrator in August 2016. Her work, out with her role as SSA Administrator, includes the website ArtScotland.info and with the George Wyllie Foundation.

#### **7. Adoption of Accounts to 31st December 2015**

The accounts to the year-end, December 2015 were made available to members to view. The accounts are currently in credit and, therefore, show that the Council and Administrator are managing the charity successfully. Accounts were formally adopted.

#### **8. Discussion**

Clarification on the selection procedure for a joint exhibition with Visual Art Scotland was requested. The exhibition will be fully collaborative and artists will submit through one portal and be selected by a committee made up of an equal number of SSA and VAS members. Selecting the New Graduates Award will also be collaborative. Each Society will present their own curated elements.

Lys Hanson stated that it is very important for the SSA to keep NGS as the venue for the Annual Exhibition.

#### **9. Any other competent business**

The Chair of ESSA, Howard Pearce, will be standing down from the role in 2017, any SSA members interested in this role should contact the administrator.

The meeting closed at 3pm