



Minutes of the 127th AGM of the Society of Scottish Artists

ZOOM (online)

Sunday 20 March 2022, 11am

1. Apologies:

Su Grierson, Jane Shanks, Alexandra Roddan, Jill McIntosh, Judith Rowan, Jane McIntyre, Susan Wilson, Penny Cuthbert, Donald Ritchie, Lys Hansen, David Faithfull, Rick Ballard (Honorary Treasurer).

Present:

Jamie McAteer (Co-President), Olivia Turner (Co-President), Carmen Carmeli, Anoushka Havinden, Leena Nammari, James Haynes, Jenny Pope, Lynsey MacKenzie, Nicola McNally, Jean Watt, Jodi Le Bigre, AJ Anderson, Theresa Lynn, Michele Marcoux Mary Gillespie, Miriam Vickers, Yvonne DuBourdieu, LesleyMay Miller, Lucy E Smith, Theresa Lynch, Greg Bryce, Judith Shaylor, Peter Kelly, Denise Zygadlo, Ann Louise Kieran, Catherine King, Sarah Mac Keever, Rowena Comrie, Sylvia Home, Yoko Archer, Sarah Devlin, Yuliya Lennon, Jill Skulina, Ewan John, Aileen Stackhouse, Su Grierson, Anne Russell, Norman McBeath, Sheila Chapman, Lindsey Hamilton, Gemma Petrie, Sharon Quigley, Siusan Patterson, Catherine Sargeant, Carolyn Nurse, Gordon Cheape, Felicity Bristow, Ursula Pretsch, Paul Charlton, Jill Bennett, Miriam Mallalieu, Pascale Steenkiste, Lauren Kilpatrick, Lucilla Sim, Liberte Graace, Chrissie Heughan, Kerry Jones, Wei Wei, Gillian McFarland, Anney White, Ruth Nicol, Laura Molloy, Gabriele Jogelaitė, Mary Morrison, Vibha Pankaj, Alison Brewster, Rowan Paton, Susan Wilson, Jane Hunter, Vasile Toch.

In Attendance: Lindsay Howarth and Cheryl Connell (minute)

Jamie McAteer (Co-President) welcomed all to the AGM.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 31 January 2021 were presented and accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Jamie McAteer, seconded Gillian McFarland.

3. Matters arising

No matters arising.

4. Accounts

Olivia Turner noted on behalf of SSA Treasurer Rick Ballard:

The Society is in a sound financial position with membership at an all-time high.

Accounts for year ended 30 June 2021 are currently being reviewed by the accountants and once complete will be made available via link on website.

5. Constitution

Presidents presented the recent changes that had been completed and that were available to members to view via the SSA website. It was noted the importance for a full refresh of the Constitution to bring it up to date for it to continue to represent the Society as it stands today. This requires a significant amount of work ahead including input from a variety of people and membership. Members were asked to relay any feedback to admin.

6. Election of Committee Members

Council Members end of term:

Alistair Cook (stepped down July 2021), Gillian Spanswick, Christine Wylie, Duncan Robertson and Rhona Taylor (Vice-President.)

The Presidents and Council thanked everyone for their time and commitment during their term and extended their special thanks to Rhona Taylor who provided unwavering support and expertise in her Vice President role. In response she was presented with an Honorary Membership.

Professional Member Jill Skulina will take up the new Vice-President role.

Gillian McFarland and Jenny Pope will change their Council positions to Co-opted Council Members in order to lead on the new SSA Mentoring Programme.

Received a great response to recent open call for new Council members and this year this included Student and Graduate Members. This group represent a large proportion of the Society and important to have this representation at Council level.

New Co-opted Student Members: Carolyne Nurse, Miriam Mallalieu, Gabrielle Jogelaite and James Haynes.

New Professional Members Ewan John, Joan Smith and Vasile Toch.

New Artist Members: Sharon Thomas and Kerry Jones.

New Co-opted Artist Members: Greg Bryce and Vibha Pankaj

7. President's Address

The Co-Presidents reviewed the activities of 2021, and were pleased to report that the membership continued to grow during the second Pandemic year. Programming remained ambitious despite being unable to have minimum physical exhibitions during this period.

MEMBERSHIP

Current (18.03.22): 1396 (Active) 327 (Pending) **TOTAL: 1723**

40% increase since January 2021 including pending members

18% increase since January 2021 excluding pending members

Jan 2021: 1186 (Active) 49 (Pending) **TOTAL: 1235**

Online Programme 2022

Programming remained flexible for a second year running to uphold our commitments to our members and to reach new audiences across Scotland and beyond during the ongoing Covid lockdown periods. The Society focused on promoting members through online exhibitions, all curated by the Council members. Seven exhibitions were curated on the SSA online platform ArtLogic with submissions via Zealous.

Re:Connect | 21 May - 20 June 2021

Focused on Drawing and painting

Curated by Gillian Spanswick and Gillian A McFarland, with invited artist Andrew Phillips

Total Artworks: 207 | Total Artist Applications: 207 | Total Selected: 30

Total Sales: £300 | SSA commission: £90 | Online Views: 1200

Contemporary Figures | 21 May - 20 June 2021

Focused on figurative work in any medium

Curated by Duncan Robertson and Jenny Pope, with work from invited artist Erlend Tate

Total Artworks: 157 | Total Artist Applications: 157 | Total Selected: 42

Total Sales: £745 | SSA commission: £223.50 | Online Views: 1383

Printed Elements | 1-31 July 2021

Focused on printmaking in various methods

Catherine Sargeant and Christine Wylie with invited artist Mark Doyle

Total Artworks: 91 | Total Artist Applications: 91 | Total Selected: 30

Total Sales: £425 | SSA commission: £127.50 | Online Views: 690

Instant | 1 - 31 July 2021

Photographic print mainly in analogue or alternative processes.

Sarah Kudirka and Alastair Cook invited artist Anne Brodie

Total Artworks: 31 | Total Artist Applications: 31 | Total Selected: 25
Total Sales: £205 | SSA commission: £61.50 | Online Views: 534

Sculpture Now | 1 - 31 July 2021

A view of contemporary sculpture

Curated by Duncan Robertson and Jenny Pope with invited artist Bruno Wank

Total Artworks: 49 | Total Artist Applications: 49 | Total Selected: 30

Total Sales: £450 | SSA commission: £341 | Online Views: 1005

Online Closing Event: Attended: 38

Pause | 7 Aug - 5 Sept 2021

A spotlight on the Satellite Associates of the SSA from around Scotland

Curated by Lindsay Hamilton

Total Artworks: 42 | Total Artist Applications: 14 | Total Selected: 24

Total Sales: £0 | Online Views: 517

A Space Between | 7 Aug - 5 Sept 2021

Showcasing short moving-image works.

Curated by Lindsay Perth and Su Grierson

Total Artworks: 58 | Total Artist Applications: 58 | Total Selected: 21

Total Sales: £0 | Online Views: 823

Gallery Exhibitions

Insectarium: Fascination and Fear

3rd June - 25th July 2021 (Rescheduled exhibition from 2020)

From the inception in 2018 from Past President Sharon Quigley and Laura Gressani of the Scottish Ornithologist Society - a view through the looking glass at arthropods and the fascination with them.

Total Artworks: 243 | Total Artist Applications: 103 | Total Selected: 53

Total Sales: £6,721 | SSA commission: £1,344.20

Visitor figures: 1080

New Professional Members 2021

Pippa Gatty, Kenris MacLeod, Ray Rankine, Bill Taylor, Luke Vinnicombe, Gill Walton and Fenneke Wolters-Sinke.

Marchmont House Residency May 2021

New partnership with Marchmont Estate in May 2021, for the first year of fully funded residencies. Residency agreement will continue for a further two years.

Selection committee included: Hugo Burge, Marchmont House owner and Anthony Hughes-Onslow, General Manager. Selection decision was challenging, it was decided in the end that two places would be funded: Natasha Russell and Marrison Stoffer. Both artists benefited from dedicated time to focus on their projects. Marrison Stoffer's outcome of the residency was exhibited in last year's Annual Exhibition.

Total Applications: 37

Selected artist: Natasha Russell | Runner-up: Marissa Stoffer: 2-week residency

Here & Now, Tatha Gallery

26th June - 24th July 2021 (Rescheduled from 2020)

15 artists with over 40 works on display in the Summer of 2021.

Jointly curated by Lindsay Bennett, Tatha Gallery Director and Jamie McAteer.

Total artworks: 40+ works | Total Artist Applications: 60 | Total Selected: 15

Total Sales: £880 | SSA commission: N/A | Visitor figures: 126

123rd Annual Exhibition 2021

Returning after a long gap since 2019, post-Covid lockdown. Partnerships included New Media Scotland, George Wyllie Estate and Two-Step Collaboration. Also included presentations from two years of Scottish Art School Graduates. Achieved a new record of sales: £30,000 of artworks, from buyers from major art collections and across the world.

Installation, Proposals & Performance Submissions

Total Artworks: 25 | Total Artist Applications: 24 | Total Selected: 10

General Submissions | Total Artworks:1425 | Total Artist Applications:583

Total Selected: 99

CutLog | Total Artworks: 84 | Total Artist Applications: 84 | Total Selected: 20

30x30 Popular as ever with over 400 artworks received with many from new Members.

Total Artworks: 427 | Total Artist Applications: 163

Total Sales: Artworks: 44 sales - £20,966 | 30 x 30: 72 sales - £10,053 | Total sales: £31,049
| SSA commission: £11,996

Ticket Sales: £7,044 | Catalogue sales: £416 (104) | Visitor figures: 3742

Included a series of in-person and online events, including Exhibition Preview.

SSA Professional Member Fenneke Wolters-Sinke held two artists booklet workshops online.
Total attendees: 39

Vice President, Rhona Taylor chaired an evening with three exhibitors online via Zoom.
Artists in the Studio included Louise Barrington in Orkney, Molly Kent in Edinburgh and Thomas MacGregor in London. Total attendees: 57

Harry Ross live streamed his solo performance which focused on the manufacture of a Scottish Identity. The performance took place from the Royal Scottish Academy and ended in Penicuik.

The final event of the exhibition concluded in the gallery with artist talks from Joan Smith and Marissa Stoffer. Total attendees: 21

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

Instagram Current followers (18.03.2022): **9,260**
28% increase since January 2021 (Jan 2021: Total 7,238)

Facebook Current followers (18.03.2022): **6,116**
8% increase since January 2021 (Jan 2021: Total 5,687)

2022 Programme

Marchmont Residency | 15 – 29 May 2022

This year's fully funded 2-week residency in the Tower Studio, Marchmont House. The selected artists will also take part in their open studios event in August.

Selected artist: Noel Griffin

Borders Art Fair | 25th – 27th March 2022

First time exhibiting. Spotlight Area at the Borders Events Centre.

Selected artists: Ade Adesina, Michele Bianco, Chris Brook, Rowena Comrie, Hetty Haxworth, Kenris MacLeod, Gillian Adair McFarland, Emily Moore, Mary Morrison, Ruth Nicol, Charlotte Roseberry, Anne Russell, Bronwen Sleight, Luke Vinnicombe, Fenneke Wolters-Sinke.

In addition, 140 members have submitted their 30 x 30 artworks to be presented alongside.

Dunoon Burgh Halls | Unmute | 17 June – 24 July 2022

First physical exhibition of 2022 in collaboration with Dunoon Burgh Halls, Argyll and Bute. New open call launched this week. Exhibition will focus on how we have adapted and found new approaches to connecting to one another during the last two years.

DRIFT | New online exhibition

Will shortly be launching a new online opportunity that will focus on video work, in any of the standard moving image genres. Further details to follow in future newsletter.

Professional Members Open Call

New call for members will be distributed 5th April 2022.

SSA Mentoring Programme

New programme of support has been established with funding secured from Creative Scotland for a 12-month pilot programme, led by Council Members Jenny Pope and Gillian McFarland. This is in direct response to recent times. Programme will take a conversational approach to enable mentees to define goals and plan towards future projects and gain support, insight and encouragement along the way.

The project will pair together established and emerging artists mentors. Mentors will be paid for their time and training will be provided throughout.

There will be an application process for both positions, and this will be launched in the coming weeks. Thanks were made to those of whom had already noted interest, and the administration of all to date.

Engramme | 7 May - 12 June 2022

Selected artist: Maja Quille

A series of cyanotypes based on single-use plastic waste, time and sunlight and were produced during lockdown.

Working closely with Engramme Director Anne-Sophie Ohmer to confirm exhibition plans though it is anticipated that travel will not be possible this year due to continued lockdown issues in Canada.

124th Annual Exhibition

ESSA 12-week exhibition slot: confirmed as 10th December - 5th March.

Date allocation still being discussed, though SSA will be going first in this rotation.

2022 marks 130 years since the first SSA Annual Exhibition and to celebrate SSA plan to exhibit a series of works by past SSA members or invited elements in the SSA Annual Exhibition. This will include loaned works from a variety of private and public galleries, for example: Auguste Rodin, Bet Low, Paul Klee and Edvard Munch.

Website | Members Profiles

A reminder to members to complete and update Profile pages on the SSA website. Great way to showcase the diverse talent within the membership. A step-by-step instruction guide is available in the Members Area on the website if support required. Deadline for image profiles 31st March 2022. Thereafter SSA will issue a holding image in its place in order to make all profiles live and viewable. Direct all queries to admin.

8. Open Discussion

Ruth Nicol congratulated the committee in remaining agile during another difficult year and their commitment to take opportunities out to other areas of the country. Also pleased to see an open and inclusive selection throughout. Statistics reported were impressive, however noted that the Annual Exhibition catalogue sales were reduced and questioned if this should be reviewed.

Leena Nammari added that the catalogue format was problematic. Scale too large to be transportable as a take-away. She noted that the Annual Exhibition felt exclusionary in only

representing 99 members post-pandemic, and found this extremely disappointing.

Judith Shaylor noted her support for the exhibition and the work from the team included to make it happen. She requested an update on the potential opportunity with partners in Gibraltar.

Louise Ritchie added her disappointment and the missed opportunity to include all members post-pandemic in the Annual Exhibition and questioned the long-term plan.

Jamie McAteer noted that a digital catalogue format was considered and will be reviewed again this year if better solution can be found. Artists generally preferred hard-copies, and so a discussion to be continued alongside budget.

Jamie McAteer explained the stages of the selection process and the series of limitations that contributed to the hang that was presented: the impact of the pandemic had meant many artists were unable to access printing studios etc. thus led to a noticeable gap of mediums in the submissions received; many older works were submitted which as per the SSA Constitution these were unable to be considered; the tight restrictions within RSA to meet the necessary Covid-guidelines impacted parking for hand in and out as well as the installation processes. All these elements were carefully considered as part of this wider selection process.

Zealous was chosen as a platform to continue to keep costs reduced for all members. Platform has support available and with ongoing improvements. If there is a demand for a change to this platform please inform admin and this will be reviewed.

Jamie McAteer reported that the Gibraltar opportunity had been paused due to changing of spaces and travel restrictions and is due to be reviewed for 2023/24.

9. AOCB

Co-Presidents thanked all who attended this year's AGM.

Meeting closed 12.30pm
