



## **Minutes of the 128th AGM of the Society of Scottish Artists**

ZOOM (online)

Sunday 26 March 2023, 11am

### **1. Apologies:**

Denise Zygadlo, Kit Martin, Patricia Currie, Shaeron Averbuch, Janette Kerr, Sandra Vick, Judith Rowan, Jill Bennett, John Hamilton, Susan Wilson, Fenneke Wolters-Sinke, Eona Murray Aitken, Frank To, Nicola McNally, Sharon Thomas.

Present:

Jamie McAteer (Co-President), Olivia Turner (Co-President), William Carr, Miriam Vickers, Alison Brewster, Lindsey Hamilton, Sarah Devlin, Vibha Pankaj, Fiona Hutchison, Vasile Toch, Anne Marquiss, Mary Morrison, Rick Ballard, Jenny Pope, Catherine Sargeant, Carlyne Nurse, Alice Gordon, Joanne Kerr, Paul Fieldsend, Ian Farmer, Celine McIlmunn, Elise Allan, Su Grierson, Lucilla Sim, James Wyness, Joan Smith, Molly Bullick, Libby Anson, Rowena Comrie, Louise Ritchie, Lisa Denyer, Vanessa Lawrence, Paul Charlton, Gill Walton, Christine Sloman, Joanne Soroka, Cate Inglis, Jenny Mason, Julia Douglas, Fiona Burrows, Aileen Grant, Niki Sukatorn, Jenny Smith, Paula V Bloom, Sharon Quigley, Marjory Cooks, Paola McClure, Duncan Robertson.

In Attendance: Cheryl Connell (minute – SSA Administrator)

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

### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on Sunday 20th March 2022 were presented and accepted as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Jamie McAteer, seconded Jenny Smith and Vasile Toch.

### **3. Matters arising**

No matters arising.

### **4. Accounts**

SSA Treasurer Rick Ballard noted good financial health at present with a brief overview of the key influencers: membership numbers as main driver of income, as well as commission of any art sales that SSSA have throughout the year.

The cost side is the cost of exhibitions i.e. RSA rental fee and other related exhibition expenses and the cost of administrator's salaries, website maintenance etc. Those are the key elements that influence the financial position. Recent years have seen an increase in membership numbers which has provided a good financial footing and allowed SSA to put on further opportunities and events for members.

2021-22 Annual Accounts have been approved and filed and are now available to view on our website with previous years on the 'Our history' page. Scroll to the bottom of the page.

### **5. Election of Council Members**

Olivia Turner thanked all the Council Members whose 3-year term has now ended, for their support and contributions, wishing them the best for the future. Really enjoyable working with each of them.

Council Members stepped down:

Jill Skulina – Vice President (July), remained on Council as Professional Member. Miriam

Mallalieu - Vice President (October), Su Grierson, Lindsay Perth, Lindsey Hamilton (November), James Haynes (October), Sharon Thomas (continuing as Co-opted)

Council appointments: Gill Walton (Professional Member) and Frank To (Professional Member)

Gill Walton will be leading on the Satellite Associates programme going forward.

Council vacancies: 1 x Professional Member, 2 x Artist Members and there are some regional gaps within the Satellite Associates too. Recruitment planned for all in the coming months. Contact admin if any of interest.

Administrator Lindsay Howarth stepped down (February 2023). Thanks were noted for her great work and OT wished her well for the future. Recruitment underway to fulfil the position. Please share widely.

Also, notably the end of term for the Co-Presidents, Jamie McAteer and Olivia Turner. Thanks were noted to each other and the network of support that has been provided from members during their tenure. It has been a very enjoyable and demanding role at times, and both will miss it greatly.

New appointments:

Vasile Toch, President

Carolyne Nurse, Co Vice-President

Libby Anson, Co Vice-President

Gill Walton, Professional Member as new point of contact for Satellite Associates

Frank To, Professional Member

## **6. President's Address**

The Co-Presidents reviewed the activities of 2022/23, and were pleased to report:

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Current (26.03.23): 1504 (Active) 307 (Pending) **TOTAL: 1811**

4.8% increase since March 2022 including pending members

7% increase since March 2022 excluding pending members

### **Marchmont Residency | 15-29 May 2022**

Funded residency for two weeks in the Tower Studio, Marchmont House. Selected artist, Noel Griffin.

Total Applications: 43

### **Borders Art Fair | 25 - 27 March 2022**

First time exhibiting at Fair. SSA display had prime location in the Spotlight Area.

Exhibiting invited members; Ade Adesina, Michele Bianco, Hetty Haxworth and Mary Morrison.

Exhibiting Professional Members: Chris Brook, Rowena Comrie, Kenris MacLeod, Gillian Adair McFarland, Emily Moore, Mary Morrison, Ruth Nicol, Charlotte Roseberry, Anne Russell, Bronwen Sleigh, Luke Vinnicombe, Fenneke Wolters-Sinke.

Display included a range of 30x30 works to test format in new location. Less successful versus wall works at similar price range.

All works were also presented online in SSA online viewing room. Receiving sales from both platforms.

Total artworks: 75 | Total Artist Applications: 30 | Total Selected: 18

Total Sales: £4,825 | SSA Commission: £1,708

### **Engramme Exchange | 7 May – 12 June 2022**

Selected member: Maja Quille.

Another successful collaboration after a 1-year break due to renovations in the Engramme gallery. SSA worked closely with Engramme Director Anne-Sophie Ohmer.

Ongoing Covid restrictions in Canada limited travel element of programme this year.

### **Professional Members Open Call | June 2022**

The Professional Members elected in 2022 were: Joy Arden, Samantha Clark, Celia Garcia, Karen Maxted, Gemma Petrie, Lucilla Sim

### **SSA Mentoring Programme | June 2022**

In direct response to the impact the Covid pandemic on working artists, Council members Jenny Pope and Gillian McFarland initiated and led this new mentoring project for SSA, successfully securing funding from Creative Scotland. This included 1:1 mentoring for 10 mentees, training, a steering group, and external consultants.

SSA provided additional support to fund a new group peer-to-peer mentoring programme to run alongside, providing further data to inform future programming and member opportunities. Programme will finalise in June 2023 with plans for an exhibition in October.

**Mentors** | Total applications: 24 | Total selected: 10

**Mentees** | Total applications: 41 | Total selected: 10

### **Unmute, Dunoon Burgh Halls | 17 June – 24 July 2022**

New collaboration. First physical exhibition since lockdown. Included online exhibition.

Invited artist: Iona Brown

Exhibitors: Marion Barron, Louise Black, Mhairi Braden, Iona Brown, Christy Burdock, Tom Cartmill, Samantha Cheevers, Kyra Clegg, Agnes Eperjesy, Adrian Gardner, Paul Holmes, Jane Hunter, Olivia Irvine, Pearl Kinneer, Rosie Lesso, Ruby Lord, Eoghann Mac Colla, Lynsey MacKenzie, Kit Martin, Martin McKenna, Robyn Neild, Gemma Petrie, Sharon Quigley, Alexandra Roddan, Charlotte Roseberry, Sophie Stewart, Bill Taylor, Angela Taylor, Celestine Thomas, Olivia Turner, Luke Vinnicombe, Alasdair Wallace, Fenneke Wolters-Sinke, Denise Zygadlo.

Total artworks: 257 | Total Artist: 117 | Total Selected: 51

Total Sales: £850 | SSA Commission: 34 | Visitor figures: 1,391

### **Drift | 16 September – 16 October 2022**

Showcased 18 short films by SSA Members online, curated by Council members Su Grierson and Lindsay Perth.

Opening screening event at Summerhall Cinema followed by an SSA social event.

Total artworks: 34 | Total Artist: 34 | Total Selected: 18

Total ticket sales: £84 | Visitor figures for screening: 55

### **SSA at the Big Art Show Paisley | 26 August – 26 November 2022**

New artists collective, and new SSA partnership.

Invited artist Thomas Adam

Exhibitors: Thomas Adam, Carmen Carmeli, Soosan Danesh, Kinga Elliott, Lindsey Lavender, David Lemm, Ruby Lord, Charlotte Roseberry, Lucilla Sim, Fenneke Wolters-Sinke.

Included a new award: The Society of Scottish Artists & Outspoken Arts prize, £200 plus a 1 year's free SSA membership. Awardee: Ann Vance.

Total artworks: 85 | Total Artist: 38 | Total Selected: 9

## **SSA 130 Years | Annual Exhibition (124th Annual Exhibition), RSA 16 December 2022 - 10 January 2023**

Celebrated 130 years since the first exhibition held by the SSA at the RSA, it looked back at the vibrant history and showcased a selection of work that has contributed to Scotland's artistic culture. Included loaned works by artists who have been connected and exhibited with SSA over the 130 years, working in partnership with a number of major institutions from across Scotland.

Works were loaned from the following Institutions:

Glasgow Museums - Auguste Rodin

National Galleries of Scotland - Edvard Munch and Archive Materials

Edinburgh City Arts Centre - Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell and Bet Low

The Scottish Gallery - Joan Eardley

Abrdn - Robert Noble

Wilhelmina Barns Graham Trust - Wilhelmina Barns Graham

Stirling University - George Wylie

NHS Lothian - Richard Demarco and Francis Walker

Royal Scottish Academy - Philip Reeves

Royal Scottish Academy Collections - Eduardo Paolozzi

ModernPrints.co.uk - Eduardo Paolozzi

10 SSA members were selected from an open call, receiving an artist fee to create a contemporary response to their selected artwork.

Annual Exhibition also included another collaboration with artist-led organisation CutLog to showcase moving-image works by Scottish and international artists, responding to theme of *Re-imagining Wonderland*. The works were screened within a new structure by artist Mike Inglis.

New Media Scotland presented new works by artist, designer and maker Frances Priest. Two ceramic vessels and a collaborative projection were displayed in the building's entrance.

International presentations included Engramme exchange artist Nicole Schlosser, Eichstätt residency awardee Jill Bennett, and (w)ORD: EBBE+FLOW, a research residency involving artists from Scotland and Norway.

During the exhibition a variety of events included:

### **Talks:**

A weekly guided tour by Professional member Ruth Nicol.

Jill Bennett in conversation with Sharon Thomas

Nicole Schlosser in conversation with Sharon Thomas

Cutlog in conversation with Beverley Hood

Imbrication: A conversation between Frances Priest, Sam Healy and Mark Daniels

Artist Talk: (W)ORD:EBBE+FLOW

### **Hands on events:**

Gelli Print workshop run by students of Forth Valley College  
Art and the Start

### **130 Years open-call**

Total Artworks: 86 | Total Artist: 78 | Total Selected: 10

### **Installation, Proposals & Performance Submissions**

Total Artworks: 69 | Total Artist: 56 | Total Selected: 9

### **General Submissions**

Total Artworks: 1293 | Total Artist: 546 | Total Selected: 239

### **CutLog**

Total Artworks: 48 | Total Artist: 45 | Total Selected: 15

## **30x30**

Total Artworks: 654 | Total Artist: 249

### **Total Sales:**

Artworks: £22,830 | 30 x 30: £14,940

Total Sales: £37,770

SSA Commission: £14,759.25

Artist Commission: £23,010.75

Ticket Sales: £14,978 | Event Ticket Sales: £257 | Catalogue Sales: £1,135 | Total Sales: £16,370

Visitor Figures: 6,575

Total overall sales: £54,140

## **Social Media Statistics**

### **Instagram**

Current followers (21.03.2023): **10,500**

**13%** increase since March 2022 (March 2022: Total 9,260)

### **Facebook**

Current followers (21.03.2023): **6,500**

**6%** increase since March 2022 (March 2022: Total 6,116)

## **Programme 2023**

### **Borders Art Fair | 17-19 March 2023**

13 Professional Members alongside invited members, Joy Arden and Carol Sinclair.

**Exhibiting Artists:** Georgina Bown, Jessica Copping, Alison Grant, Lindsey Lavender, Susie Leiper, Kirsty Lorenz, Kenris McLeod, Lucilla Sim, Bronwen Sleigh, Christine Sloman, Joan Smith, Olivia Turner, Denise Zygadlo

Total Artists: 24 | Total Selected: 13 | Total Artworks selected: 45

Total Sales: £1,680 | SSA Commission: £588

### **Professional Members Election 2023**

To be paused in 2023 for a full review.

### **Marchmont Residency 2023**

Paused until 2024

### **The Caledonian Club, London | 19 June - 14 July 2023**

New opportunity and collaboration, bringing work outside Scotland and to have a representation in London.

### **Big Art Show Paisley | 13 August - 18 November 2023**

Continuing SSA award in collaboration with Outspoken Arts Scotland:

The Society of Scottish Artists & Outspoken Arts prize included £200 plus a 1 year's free SSA membership.

### **125th Annual Exhibition | Maclaurin Gallery, Ayr | 18 November 2023 - 14 January 2024**

New location for Annual Exhibition in 2023 with work selected from a series of open calls and the New Graduate Award 2023.

## **Other opportunities**

### **Engramme Exchange**

Following a successful exchange in 2022, this partnership will return for an exchange opportunity in May 2024.

### **Eichstätt Residency**

Next residency to take place in Autumn 2024. Open call to launch in coming months.

Vasile Toch noted his intention to expand number of exhibitions across Scotland and UK and build upon SSA presence on the international scene. Full plan will be shaped with the SSA Council in next few months and will be shared then. Vasile Toch thanked Jamie McAteer and Olivia Turner for their management of the society during the Covid and lockdown period.

## **7. Open Discussion**

Q: Miriam Vickers: What will be the arrangements for transport to Maclaurin Art Gallery for Private view and activities, and pick up for work in annual exhibition?

A: JMA answered that it will be similar to previous; members will be able to deliver direct as well as SSA will be looking into options for co-ordinated drop-off locations with potentially subsidised transport. The anticipated reduced expenditure this year will enable the president and council to potentially look at bus options to attend events. Council will review all.

Q: Joanna Soroka: She noted her concern about the way the Selection Committee and the Hanging and Arranging Committee for the Annual Exhibition are chosen/elected

A: JMA replied that this was voted by Council of 14 people: Similarly to last year, Council voted to have the selection committee and hanging committee as one unit. This format proved to work well during Covid, whereby there was a limitation on number of people in the galleries and having the same persons with prior knowledge of the artworks from selection, available and in the gallery, was a very beneficial process. This format could change this year according to the President and Vice Presidents.

Q: Julia Douglas: Do SSA plan to return to RSA next year?

A: OT answered: Yes, that is the current plan. There are however further elements that need consideration. Next year will be restricted space for the Annual Exhibition, galleries 6 & 7 and the sculpture court will not be accessible to ESSA (SSA, Visual Arts Scotland, Royal Society of Watercolours). Fee will not be reduced either. There is a need to watch how this rolls out this year and review.

Q: Joy Arden: Was there a problem with the RSA venue. Or is it a question of trying somewhere else?

There was no problem. At the time the decision had to be made, there was no future SSA President in place. The exhibition slot timings would also mean the SSA would have had two annual exhibitions in one financial year. This is a strain on finances. No time or space for preparation meant it would be extremely difficult to fulfil. Plan is to return 2024/25 and potentially on a biannual process. Member questionnaire is planned to find out what the members want.

Q: edinburghbiennale.art: Is the Annual Exhibition open to members? Can every member send work for exhibition?

It is a selection process open to members whereby submissions are reviewed by a committee. Not every work will be chosen. (JMA)

Q: edinburghbiennale.art: Is there a way for members who have open calls to announce them?

A: JMA - Yes, simply share your info with admin by completing a member's event form with full details. This is shared through members newsletter and social media. Ensure to allow sufficient notice time before the event date.

Q: edinburghbiennale.art: Is there anyway to share studio exchanges and swap opportunities?

Yes, similarly there is a social media platform for SSA members on Facebook whereby you can post anything that you think would be beneficial to other members. (JMA)

Q: edinburghbiennale.art: Who chooses the committee and do members elect the committee?

Everyone is welcome to apply to be part of selection committees. This is voted on by Council, and who they think is best suited for the opportunity. (JMA)

Q: Julia Douglas: Do you have plans in place to develop the 'our history' part of the website further? It feels like so much of the history is missing.

A: During Covid we didn't have access to the SSA archive to populate this in the way we wanted, so we are looking for a member to take this task on from the membership. It would be beneficial. The SSA archive is one of the most accessed archives out of all the archives in Scotland and does include a lot of information of where people started their careers and there were plan to develop that part of the website, just at the time we had restricted access to the archive to complete as much as they would have hoped. (OT)

Q: Has it changed from members voting the selection committees?

A: The members do vote for the Annual selection committees, just not the small shows. (OT)

Q: Joanne Soroka: Wanted to talk about the way committees are selected and noted the normal procedures: nominations come from every members of SSA members, all members are invited to submit nominations for committees. And then a ballot goes out to every member for both the hanging and arranging committee and the selection committee and then there is an election by the whole membership. This is in the constitution, and didn't happen last year, and that is what I'm concerned about it. She expressed that the constitution should be abided by, and it was noted that the membership should have been notified of any changes to this.

A: During Covid we made the decision with Council, as a wider representation of the membership. Going forward the new President can review this process. The constitution is out of date and needs reviewed. (JMA)

JMA further noted that unfortunately the SSA archive is not digitalised and so is only accessible in person and that SSA would like to get funding to digitalise this in future. This may be available from National Galleries of Scotland and the Archives Trust. This was considered last year but associated costs were too high.

Julia Douglas replied: 2009-2019 for certain (was digitised) as that was on the previous website. There is a complete blank for this decade on the website.

OT: When the new website was created in 2021 every single exhibition or opportunity had to be uploaded and re-entered manually. It wasn't feasible for available resources to go that far back. The most significant points in history were highlighted as a minimum.

JMA noted the voluntary roles are not limitless and need more members to contribute to build the work of the society at the professional level required. Members can be co-opted onto Council to support projects. Please volunteer your time and contribute. JS further noted that approx 10 years ago there would be one exhibition in a year, and now it is multiple exhibitions, and a mentoring programmes as well as x, y and z. Opportunities are both in person and online and the membership price has stayed the same throughout, for 10-15

years. This must be considered. The voluntary role of Council may need to change in the future to support growth.

Jamie McAteer further note that the Council are here to help and to do their best for every member, not just a select few. Please be kind to the next set of Council. They are here to do the best for the 1600 members. 10 years ago, there was just 600 members.

Vasile Toch added that it his intention to involve members across the country at a large scale, and he expects members to contribute as much of possible. It may be the case that they create a rota for selection committees, hanging etc. This may work better than it does now. He agreed that what has happened over the last year was a very good response to the Covid situation, it short-circuited knowledge from selection committee to the hanging committee. This may change, it may not, he didn't know. Beginning with at the start of April a programme of consultation with the Council that will eventually be shaped up into a 10–20-point plan that will be circulated to membership for consultation and the conclusion will be a firm plan to be carried out over next two years. Thank you.

Jenny Smith noted her thanks to Jamie McAteer and Olivia Turner and noted that it was very easy to sit on the side lines with opinions. Taking the society through some particularly difficult times and through different transformations was commendable and noted her thanks for this work.

Jamie McAteer noted the difficult times and the list of achievements over the three years: rebranded the society; created a home online which is serviceable and user-friendly to SSA membership that enables members to host their own website from our platform. The SSA is used regularly for artists and galleries to see who is coming on the scene. SSA archive is used in the same way to see where people have come from in their careers. All Jamie McAteer and Olivia Turner have achieved is to benefit the membership and is not a self-serving situation, with both co-presidents stepping back from personal work to make the society their priority.

Jamie McAteer thanked Olivia Turner for the positive collaboration from last 3 years and thanked the Council for their contributions and ideas to the programme too. Thanks were made to Administrator Cheryl Connell for her help to steer them through the Covid period.

Q: Chrissie Heughan: asked if SSA was still part of the ESSA and noted the benefit of the financial outlay going elsewhere this year by working with Maclaurin Gallery. Chrissie queried the ticket entry fee and if members could receive tickets to share with others, in a perks to members benefit, and asked what the audience numbers might be for the Maclaurin Gallery.

A: Vasile Toch replied that the Maclaurin Gallery has thousands of visitors every week. He didn't have specific figures but attends regularly and it is supported well by the local Council.

## **9. AOCB**

Co-Presidents once again thanked everyone for their kind words, and thanked the Council, Administrator Cheryl Connell and Treasurer Rick Ballard for their ongoing support. It was great to see everyone today and they hoped to see everyone at events in the future.

Meeting closed 12.08pm

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