

ART UNLOCKS KEY MESSAGES

About SCAN

Scottish Contemporary Art Network (SCAN) connects and champions Scotland's contemporary art community. Our 300 organisational and individual members work at the heart of communities from Shetland to the Scottish Borders and from East Lothian to the Western Isles. They include Scotland's leading galleries, artists' studios, workshops and production facilities and a highly skilled workforce of artists, art workers and creative thinkers. They sustain a network of free at the point of access galleries and venues, responsive and flexible institutions that anchor local communities and open their doors to their neighbours and visitors alike.



Art Unlocks Core Message

Given the right support and investment art organisations and artists can be at the heart of the national recovery and our wellbeing economy and bring new thinking and perspectives to what will be a complex and difficult path to recovery.

What is Art Unlocks?

Since April, our [#ArtUnlocks](#) campaign has highlighted the cultural opportunities in neighbourhoods across Scotland, safe and free to visit, offering new perspectives on everything that is currently going on in our communities and our world. Over the summer, we will be reaching out to MSPs across Scotland, inviting them to visit their local visual art space, studio or gallery and helping them to see the important part that contemporary visual art plays in their region. You can find out more about the campaign so far [here](#).

Key themes

This summer we want to tell policy makers what art and artists contribute to communities across the country, our themes are:

- Art Unlocks Climate Action
- Art Unlocks International Collaboration
- Art Unlocks Investment
- Art Unlocks Placemaking
- Art Unlocks Talent
- Art Unlocks Wellbeing

Art Unlocks Climate Action

- Artists are thought leaders. Their work helps audiences develop empathy and understanding in relation to the environment, critical attitudes to political challenges, and calls to action in relation to the climate crisis.
- Artists and organisations use their special skills, such as collaborative working, creativity and imagination, to empower their local communities and networks to increase understanding, collaboration and community capacity in the climate crisis.
- Many artists already live low carbon lifestyles, and model responsible behaviour in work and daily life. Artist communities are experts in sharing resources, recycling, upcycling and circular economies.

Art Unlocks International Collaboration

- Artists act local and think global, Scotland's artists are part of a world-wide community of specialist thinkers and skilled workers.
- Artists and organisations across Scotland work across the world. Our artists show work at international galleries, festivals, art fair and events.
- Our organisations invite international artists to work in Scotland, take part in international projects and come to live and work here through residency programmes and opportunities. They work across continents developing ideas and projects. Art Unlocks partnerships with international partners from the grassroots level to intergovernmental initiatives.

Art Unlocks Investment

- Cultural projects reach communities and invest in places across Scotland, making them better places to live, work and study.
- Art can bring public, charitable and philanthropic funding together to invest in improvements to our neighbourhoods and facilities for our communities.
- Scotland's commercial art sector is small but has huge international reach, supporting jobs and livelihoods and Scotland's reputation here and overseas.

Art Unlocks Placemaking

- Artists and arts organisations work in our communities to unlock resources and build capacities.
- Arts organisations provide vital civic space, amenities, opportunities for the public and improvement in our neighbourhoods.

- Artists tell stories about the places in which we live and help us understand and value our histories and the world around us.

Art Unlocks Talent

- Artistic activity helps people of all abilities and ages feel confident and develop new skills
- Scotland's artists and arts organisations are innovative thinkers and doers. Our studios, workshops and gallery facilities house a world class workforce who have specialist skills and expertise which they share with people at all stages of life and career.
- Art education and participation in art are building the skills needed for Scotland's future. Artist communities and arts organisations model new ways of working and thinking.

Art Unlocks Wellbeing

- Making art, taking part in an event or class, or visiting an art venue can makes us feel good and help cope with everyday challenges.
- Across Scotland artists and art organisations work in wellbeing in a myriad of ways from mental health projects, to supporting people with complex disabilities.
- Studies show that the arts have a major role in in the prevention of ill health, promotion of health, and management and treatment of illness across our lifespan

Need some facts? Find out more via our friends at [Culture Counts](#)

