

# SCOTTISH CONTEMPORARY ART NETWORK

## SCOTTISH CONTEMPORARY ART NETWORK AGM MINUTES

Online via Zoom  
23 August 2022

10.00 – 10.45

### 1. Welcome, Present & Apologies

Fiona Doring (Chair) checked that all those present had signed in and that the quorum of 1/10 of members was met. Karen Vaughan (SCAN team) confirmed that we had 23 members in attendance and this exceeded the number of 16 required to be quorate (see full list below).

In attendance: SCAN members 23, Trustees 7 (one of these stepping down)

Fiona Doring noted apologies from the following: Trustees: Nuno Sacramento, Amy Gear (Mat Leave) SCAN members: Rosie O'Grady, Many Studios, Beth Bate, Dundee Contemporary Art, Naomi Brown, Glasgow Print Studio, Margaret McCormick, Platform

In Attendance

Trustees: Fiona Doring (Chairperson) Veronique AA Lapeyre (stepping down as chairperson), Claire Craig, Juliana Capes, Jan Bert Van Berg, Pauline Kelly, Scott Parsons. Staff Team: Moira Jeffrey, Marcus Jack, Greg Thomas, Karen Vaughan, Helen Moore

Members: Kate Grenyer, Fife Contemporary, Salli Yule-Tsingas, Rhona Taylor, Art UK, Fiona Bradley, Fruitmarket, Shireen Taylor, Many Studios, Diana Stevenson, Glasgow International, Kate Bell, Fife Contemporary, Ann-Louise Kieran, Culture NL, Siobhan Healy, Kitty Anderson, Lux Scotland, Kim McAleese, Edinburgh Art Festival, Lada Wilson, Lesley Young, Bothy Project, Robyn Woolston, Graeme Webster, Edinburgh Art Festival, Katherine Murphy, Poi Marr, Glasgow International, Katrina Brown, The Common Guild, Kaylyn Hamlyn, Dundee Contemporary Arts, Ben Harman, Stills, Kirsten Body, Circus Artspace, Tim Collins, Tina Fiske, Cample Line, Bethany Thompson, Out of the Blueprint. Affiliate Members: Lynda Graham, Scottish Artists' Union, Janie Nicoll, Scottish Artists' Union

Creative Scotland Observer:

Anne Petrie, Creative Scotland

## **2. Chair's Report**

Fiona Doring presented her Chair's Report which can be read in full below – *Note 1*.

## **3. Annual Accounts 2020/21**

Fiona Doring asked that all those present had considered the accounts and asked if there are any comments or questions. None were offered by the attendees.

## **4. Appointment of Accountant**

Fiona Doring noted the re-appointment of Benham Conway Accountancy who prepared the accounts in consideration and will stay on with us for the 2021/2022 accounts.

## **5. Update on Board Recruitment**

Fiona Doring advised that SCAN board recruitment had recently taken place. The SCAN board is drawn from the membership after open recruitment, and SCAN recruits both members and non-members who can be co-opted to meet our skills and the experience needs. SCAN had an open recruitment in 2021, and of appointed 3 new members: Amy Gear, Pauline Kelly and Juliana Capes. SCAN very recently completed a new trustee skills audit and would recruiting new members from September. Skills gaps identified are legal, HR, experience of collections and commercial sectors and experience of government. SCAN also needed to address the diversity of our board as a priority for the work, and retirees in the last 2 years have shifted our demographic profile. Any member was an interest in becoming a scan trustee or, wishing to make a recommendation should contact the board.

## **6. Reappointment/Appointment of Trustees**

Fiona Doring advised that SCAN trustees required to stand down and be re-appointed. Reappointments took place as follows.

Board Re-appointments

Jan Bert van Berg: Proposer, Claire Craig. Secunder, Fiona Bradley. Number of votes, 20.

Scott Parsons: Proposer, Jan Bert van Berg. Secunder, Kitty Anderson. Number of votes, 20.

Nuno Sacramento: Proposer, Lada Wilson. Secunder, Kitty Anderson. Number of votes, 21.

Amy Gear: Proposer, Ann-Louise Kieran. Secunder, Katherine Murphy. Number of votes, 21.

Claire Craig: Proposer, Rhona Taylor. Secunder, Kirsten Body, Number of votes, 19.

Fiona Doring: Proposer, Siobhan Healy. Secunder, Katrina Brown. Number of votes, 21.

Pauline Kelly: Proposer, Veronique Lapeyre. Secunder, Claire Craig. Number of votes, 20.

Juliana Capes: Proposer, Kirsten Body. Secunder, Fiona Bradley. Number of votes, 20.

## **7. Election of Chair and Office Bearers**

Fiona Doring advised that Office bearers stood down at AGM and were eligible for re-appointment. Office-Bearers were elected/re-elected as follows:

Chair. Fiona Doring. Proposed by Jan Bert van Berg. Seconded by Ann-Louise Kieran. Number of votes, 20.

Treasurer. Pauline Kelly. Proposed by Fiona Doring. Seconded by Veronique Lapeyre. Number of votes, 22.

Secretary. Jan Bert van Berg. Proposed by Ann-Louise Kieran. Seconded by Kitty Anderson. Number of votes 16.

## **8. Director's Report**

Moira Jeffrey presented her director's report which can be read in full below – *Note 2*.

## **9. AOB**

Fiona Doring invited questions. There was no other business, and the meeting was brought to a close.

**The meeting closed at 10.50 am**

## Note 1

At this AGM we are reporting on our accounts and financial year April 2020-March 2021. Moira will give you an update on the work we undertook in the following financial year. Our 21-22 accounts are currently being finalised and will be filed with OSCR shortly.

Our vision is that the role, impact and benefits of contemporary visual arts are widely recognised as central to society and that sector professionals based in Scotland are informed, innovative and supported to achieve their ambitions.

### Strategic Aims

- Connect and unite the sector; sharing knowledge and developing shared sector goals and ambitions
- Champion and promote the sector; helping them to better evidence and articulate the artistic, social and economic impact of their activity
- Cultivate and support a diverse, highly innovative workforce and stronger infrastructure
- Corporate: SCAN is appropriately resourced to exceed the expectations of our members and stakeholders and we embed innovative equalities and environmental approaches across all aspects of our activity and approach

We'll be updating you on board recruitment plans later in the meeting. But here's our current board, we are

- Fiona Doring, Chair (Chief Executive Officer Impact Arts)
- Pauline Kelly, interim treasurer (consultant, advocacy & comms)
- Jan Bert Van Den Berg, Secretary (Director, ArtLink)
- Scott Parsons (Director of Strategy and Marketing, Glasgow School of Art)
- Juliana Capes, 9Artist and Educator)
- Nuno Sacramento (Director, Peacock Visual Arts)
- Claire Craig (Curator, Travelling Gallery)
- Amy Gear, Director GAADA

Throughout the financial year ending 31 March 2021 SCAN grew our impact, influence and membership despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. The team worked from home throughout, supporting the contemporary art sector through emergency advocacy, development activities, peer support and access to guidance in this most challenging year for the cultural sector.

We undertook extensive advocacy work, meeting regularly with our cross-sectoral peers, with government officials and our funders at Creative Scotland. We held a round table with MSPs, including Patrick Harvie and Claire Baker, and brought SCAN members together to make the case for support including meetings with Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop, Creative Scotland chair Robert Wilson and Creative Scotland Chief Exec Iain Munro. Throughout this time we also worked with the membership to prepare our asks for the May 2021 Scottish Elections.

We ran a number of surveys examining the needs of our members in the pandemic, working with colleagues such as Scottish Artists Union, and sharing information with funders, stakeholders, government officials and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture

In seeking support for the sector, we gave written evidence to inquiries at the Scottish Parliament and Westminster and represented our members in meetings with parliamentarians. Moira Jeffrey gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament's culture committee's inquiry into emergency funding in January 2021.

And we were grateful to so many colleagues and artists during difficult time including Rabiya Choudhry, Rae-Yen Song, Alberta Whittle, Nathan Coley and many others for their support for our extensive press and digital campaigns highlighting the needs of Scotland's artists and organisations during the pandemic.

To keep members connected, we hosted a total of 25 online member meet ups throughout the year, covering funding advice and advocacy updates, working online during lockdown, a safe return to work, museums and galleries exhibition tax relief and Brexit. We co-hosted an advice session in partnership with Museums Galleries Scotland to discuss safe re-opening for museums and galleries.

And during this period our social channels reached more than 21k followers and subscribers at March 2021.

46 member-only bulletins, sharing our advocacy work, Covid updates and vital sectoral information

21 bulletins to our full mailing list sharing the work of our members, events and opportunities

5 targeted bulletins to MSPs telling them about the work of our members, and the impact of the pandemic

We continued with project work online. Our Curatorial Leadership in Collections group continued to meet and it's Connect and Activate project explored how working with contemporary artists can help unlock the potential in partner museums across Scotland to help transform the stories they tell. As travel restrictions eased we worked with Basharat Khan to film case studies, with partners from Glasgow Women's Library to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh.

Our public events were focused on urgent sectoral challenges such as equalities, with our Museums are Bad For You? event with Dave O'Brien and academic experts from the Centre for Cultural Value, and a session on New Models of Funding with guests including Matthew Burrows, pictured here, the founder of Artist Support Pledge.

As part of our covid response SCAN Sparks Programme we appointed an Artist Policy officer Sekai Machache to explore how to support the grassroots activism and informal cultural work badly affected by Covid and existing structural inequalities. Sekai developed a series of podcasts sharing the work of key cultural activists in Scotland, undertook focus groups and research examining funding and support mechanisms for grassroots activity.

This was SCAN's third year as a regularly funded organisation. By March 2021 our membership had increased by 25% on the previous financial year. We had 225 members in 26 of Scotland's 32 local authority areas, reaching more than 300 named members. In February 2021 our annual survey showed a 95% satisfaction rate from our members.

This slide shows the breakdown of our membership at March 2021. During the pandemic we offered concessionary memberships to support those experiencing economic hardship.

Full details of our income and expenditure are available in our annual accounts  
This slide shows the breakdown of our income.

This slide shows our expenditure. During the pandemic the vast majority of our work was advocacy and communications, so spend was focused around staff capacity. Our programmes continued online, which reduced expenses for travel and venues, and we gave up our office. We carried over some project income for activities in 2022-2023. We are hugely grateful to our funders and partners over this period who include Creative Scotland, Museums Galleries Scotland, Art Fund, the William Grant Foundation, ENGAGE Scotland and the Scottish Artists Union.

Our total PAYE staff at 31 March 2021 was 3.2 Full time equivalent  
These were:

Director, Moira Jeffrey (0.8 FTE)  
Communications and Engagement Lead, Helen Moore (0.8 FTE)  
Finance Manager, Karen Vaughan (0.4)  
Digital Storyteller, Dan Shay (0.6 FTE)  
Programme and Marketing Officer, Myriam Mouflih (0.4 FTE)  
CLiC Project Manager, Rosemary James-Beith (0.4 FTE)  
Artist Policy Officer Sekai Machache (0.2FTE)

I will now move back to our agenda, to consider our annual accounts

## *Note 2 Director's Report*

SCAN is nothing without its members we are here to share your work, to fight your corner, and to learn from you and alongside you. We have 320 named members, and in the last 18 months we have welcomed many new individuals as well as larger organisational members including the National Library of Scotland, and Art UK. As well as Artist-led initiatives, agencies, and new organisations including Sierra Metro, Glasgow CAN, Cabbage Arts, and Outer Spaces.

This uptake of membership was achieved by effective engagement with members, our public voice, and our performance on advocacy issues during the pandemic, as well as a continued rise in followers and engagement on all our digital platforms. Our social channels reached more than 25,000 followers and subscribers as of March 2022.

Since April 2021 SCAN continued to meet regularly with Scottish Government Officials and Creative Scotland, consulting with members and responding to urgent government consultations on a range of covid issues, including emergency support, baseline measures, gallery guidance, and vaccine passports.

I met with the new Minister for Culture Jenny Gilruth then her successor Neil Gray and attended two meetings with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Deputy First Minister John Swinney during the covid response, met UK culture minister Oliver Dowden. (but not yet his successor)

I was invited to chair the Culture Counts steering group putting visual arts at the heart of political advocacy for culture in Scotland and have regularly attended meetings of Culture Counts, the Creative Economy Recovery Group, and UK-wide initiative such as the Visual Arts Alliance and the Centre for Cultural Value.

We were hugely proud to work with colleagues right across the UK in the fight to retain MGETR, the support from the exchequer for exhibition making that is of huge benefit to galleries and museums across the country. We want to thank those of you who supported us with case studies and advocacy. We won that battle and will continue to advocate for this support when it comes up for renewed consideration.

Much of our work has been behind the scenes but From April 2021 We led two public awareness campaigns as the gallery sector was re-opened. In April 2021, we launched a new national advocacy campaign #ArtUnlocks which highlighted the cultural opportunities in neighbourhoods across Scotland. Our targeted digital campaign demonstrated significant impact when it reached 10.8 million social media accounts and prompted 62,000 interactions with the #ArtUnlocks hashtag, with the support of our many members across the country.

Our national media campaign reached BBC and ITV news and I appeared on BBC Reporting Scotland and on Radio Scotland. #ArtUnlocks was covered in more than 50 items of digital and press coverage, reaching almost two million people. We couldn't have done any of this without you and it was a joy to share the work you were all doing in very demanding circumstances.

At the close of 2021 our #UnwrapArt digital campaign encouraged the public to support artists and arts organisations when shopping for Christmas. Over a month we highlighted artists selling

online, gallery shops, and festive markets right across the country. The #UnwrapArt campaign reached over a million social media accounts with 5,000 interactions.

Over the summers of 2021 and 2022 we continued to reach out to MSPs of all parties throughout Scotland and have held more than 20 visits between parliamentary representatives and SCAN members across the country under the banner of Art Unlocks. We have found that nothing can beat the confidence building that this creates for MSPs, who are often uncertain around the idea of contemporary art but blown away when they get the chance to meet artists and understand the work that organisations do in their constituencies. These visits provide an important backdrop to the more specialist work of the culture committee and the cross party group, places where we join discussions, submit evidence and make your case. We will hold a parliamentary reception in November and we will keep members posted on this.

We know that in our work, we must continue to centre artists and work with partners and colleagues to promote fair work across the sector. And we would like to say huge thanks to those artists Sam Ainsley, Laura Aldridge and Lauren Gault amongst many others who have provided insight, skill and friendly public faces for our campaign launch in the press and online this summer, reminding all of us while we are in the game and why it still matters.

There is as ever more work to do, and our sector continues to need to make critical reflections on its own work when it comes to issues like racism, inequality, and the climate crisis. Our project work has continued, and case studies published by the Curatorial Leadership in Collections Project in last Autumn reflected on the way that artists were making change in our public museums and collections working to tell new stories or dismantle old ones.

**We're hugely grateful for** the research undertaken by artist Sekai Machache through her series of SCAN Sparks podcasts with people making change in contemporary culture, including Claricia Parinussa and Briana Pegado and for the work of our former colleague Myriam Mouflih in bringing the vision of SCAN Sparks to life in our seed funding scheme for Black People and People of Colour in Scotland working in grassroots cultural activities.

As an organisation we know that SCAN itself has much to do to improve our work and we look forward to working with all of you and with partners to make that necessary change happen.

In a public park in Barrhead, there is a tree growing for each of you, and we look forward to seeing these oaks and aspens grow, reminding us that the work that so many of you did during Cop26, and continue to do was about reflection of the world around us and creating space to consider the building of a better future.

I want to acknowledge the practical difficulties ahead as we all face the challenge of the energy and the cost of living crisis and I know the unequal impact this will have on people across the country. We are talking to funders and policy makers about the impact on our members and ask you to share your stories with us

I'd like to thank the board and our amazing team, Karen, Marcus, Helen, and Greg. Finally, though we haven't yet made a fuss about it SCAN has quietly celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. We've made it so far thanks to your membership and support, and over the autumn, winter and spring



we'll be asking you to join us in SCAN Decades a programme of public events where we ask our friends and colleagues of the last ten years to help us think through what the world could or should look like over the next ten years.