

Annual Report & Accounts
1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023



Dear Supporters of New Art Studio,

Thank you for all your wonderful support and good wishes throughout the year. It has been a particularly challenging one. There have been lots of changes so your encouragement and assistance have been very much appreciated and have meant a lot to us and our New Art Studio members.

We would like to let you know that the co-founder of NAS, Tania Kaczynski, retired this year. We thank her for her tireless work to make the studio happen. She has created an important space for our members where creativity is nourished by a community helping each other to cope with trauma and life's difficulties through art. It really is a special and unique organisation. Tania plans to continue working as a writer, artist and powerful spokesperson for refugees and asylum seekers. We wish her the very best for her future.

In September 2022, Ruanna and Jasmin took on the role of co-directors and will do their best to keep the legacy going. The primary focus is always on our members who continue to come to weekly sessions, and to facilitate some of the many new referrals the studio is receiving. We have also focused on fundraising and hope to develop plans to expand the studio's offer into a second day soon. We are pleased to say that we ended this year in a more comfortable financial position than it began.

We are fortunate to have our volunteer art psychotherapist, Leidy, who will be working with us for a third year. We are delighted she has agreed to continue with us. We have also become an educational placement provider for MA Art Psychotherapy students. Over the last year, we have been lucky enough to work with Zelda, a student art therapist. We will miss her dearly and wish her all the best on her path to becoming a fully-fledged art therapist.

We have now taken on full charitable status and with that comes a board of trustees. This year we have welcomed Katharine Wynne and Funmibi Ogunlesi as new trustees.

We have been involved in lots of exciting community projects this year. We have been building new relationships and deepening old ones. We began September 22 with members being invited to a series of workshops at London Zoo where they collaborated with scientists and environmentalists. These were incredibly rich sessions with lively exchanges between members and conservationists on topics such as wildlife and displacement. This culminated in the development of a programme and exhibition entitled REFUGIA, which won a BIAZA silver award in the Diversity and Inclusion category. Our members were very proud of their achievement and we would like to thank the ZSL for their commitment to giving our members a strong voice in the shaping of this project. Many hours of hard work went into it by their team. Notably, after the project, some of our members became volunteers at the Zoo.



'I like this project so much because we learnt new things and we met different people, people that I would not usually socialise with.'

Exhibitions are a key part of our year. We were lucky enough to be invited to hold an exhibition at the Ben Uri gallery featuring artists in exile as part of the National Gallery project, Fruits of the Spirit. New Art Studio members reflected on the same questions regarding the nature of Joy by exploring feelings of hope, resistance, fortitude and love. We all enjoyed being part of the Ben Uri gallery again as partners in the community and the exhibition was very well attended by NAS supporters and by the general public.

'Joy is when we celebrate each other's festivals together, feeling safe; when we are painting and drawing together.'



During Refugee Week, we were invited to take part in an exhibition and event with Allford Hall Monaghan Morris in their architects' office space in Old Street. They are long-term partners and supporters of NAS and provided a fantastic day of creativity and drawing in an architectural work in progress and took us on the roof of their building with wonderful views of London! Our warmest thanks to their team for organising this. It is important for our members to feel they are a welcome part of the City of London.

'They are great artists in what they do and they are interested in our group and what we do – this exchange and learning from each other is important for both sides.'

In May we also took part in 5 sessions of Drawing from Nature in partnership with the Urban Forest Collective exploring nature outside the studio. We would like to thank Leidy, Zelda and our community partner Linda for facilitating these wonderful sessions in secret places in and around busy London.

'This project brought me lots of confidence to go to parks on my own and spend time in nature.'

Over the summer we created a project with Cripplegate.org in which some of our members talked about the importance of New Art Studio in their lives. We would also like to thank the team at Cripplegate for some great photos, and for promoting our artists in the studio.

'This is not just an art studio. It's a shelter where I can express myself.'

'Coming to New Art Studio has helped me to be strong, to be still standing.'

The new season is upon us and we are looking forward to the year ahead. Keep an eye out for our newsletters. We have some exciting exhibitions planned and look forward to sharing their details with you soon.

Wishing you peace and harmony.

Best wishes from

Ruanna Brook and Jasmin Topalusic



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Trustees

Katharine Edwards (Treasurer)

Siobahan O'Connell (Chair)

Funmibi Ogunlesi

Jo Sovin (Chair, retired August 2023)

Katharine Wynne

Co-Directors

Ruanna Brook and Jasmin Topalusic

New Art Studio is a registered charity No. 1192463

Registered address

Islington Arts Factory 2, Parkhurst Road, London N7 0SF

www.newartstudio.org.uk

Thanks to our supporters

Souter Charitable Trust

London Catalyst / The Peabody Trust

Islington Council / Cripplegate Foundation

Together For London / The London Community Foundation

The Arsenal Foundation

City Bridge Foundation

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Award of £1,000 from



Together for
London

The London
Community
Foundation



Bridging London,
Connecting Communities

Expenditure		Income	
Salaries	£ 16,460.00	Grants	£ 33,700.00
Studio rental	£ 5,264.00	Donations – corp.	£ 750.00
Travel	£ 2,420.00	Private donations	£ 1,256.00
Food	£ 1,068.30	Art sales / card sales	£ 1,135.61
Art material	£ 731.92	Other/ reimbursements	£ 1,360.00
Exhibition costs	£ 235.10		
Professional services incl. supervision	£ 1,831.10		
Extras	£ -		
	£ 28,010.42		£ 38,201.61

The surplus generated over the financial year to 31st July 2023 was £10,191.19

The reserves at the year end were £17,458

Independent Assessor: Paul Metharam, B & M Accountancy Ltd.