



NEW ART
STUDIO



Annual Report
and Accounts

1st August 2023 to
31st July 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters,

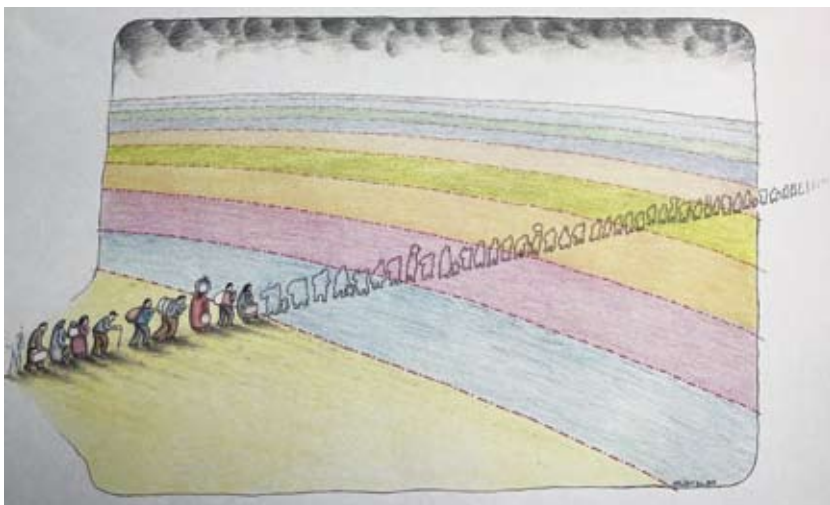
We are so happy to share with you how we have continued to deliver and improve our unique and effective art therapy service to our diverse group of participants throughout the past year. Our focus on nurturing and strengthening social relationships within our therapeutic and creative service is an integral element of New Art Studio, and we have been delighted to welcome four new members to the studio this year.

Thanks to your support and our fundraising efforts, we have managed to secure multi-year grants. We are also grateful for the continued backing from our longstanding benefactors. This has allowed us to design and run a pilot project to expand our studio service for a second day, providing our members with further therapeutic opportunities for growth and support through leadership, autonomy, and community building. Our ambition is for this expansion to become permanent so that we can continue to increase our capacity by opening new referrals for another studio day. We were delighted to see how the pilot “Peer-Led” day empowered our current members who used their experiences and creativity to support each other’s strengths and capabilities, and we are all very proud of the progress we have made together.

We also want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our outstanding volunteer, Leidy, who has dedicated three years of her time and effort to supporting the members of the studio at our weekly sessions. Her contribution has been invaluable, and we greatly respect and value her commitment and hard work. We will all miss her very much and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

With a heavy heart, we share the sad news that the building which houses our studio, Islington Arts Factory, will be closing at the end of the year for redevelopment. IAF has served the Islington community for the past 47 years, and we have been part of it since 2014. The closure of the legendary IAF will leave a void in the community and means we are now looking for new premises to ensure the continuity of our services. Our search is in the advanced stages and we hope to move into our new premises in January 2025.

We are deeply grateful to all who have supported us on our journey this year. Your contributions have been instrumental in our continued involvement in various projects which are essential for the social integration of our members and the building of relationships and support networks. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has visited and contributed to the exchange of skills, knowledge, and experiences between our communities.



In November 2023, NAS was invited to launch an exhibition at Garden Court Chambers, a prestigious chambers dedicated to fighting injustice and defending human rights, with whom we have a longstanding connection. The exhibition’s opening was incredibly warm and welcoming, with moving speeches from our members. We received great feedback and support, which not only inspired us but also gave us hope and encouragement.

“That was my first time exhibiting, and I learned not to be nervous and to trust in what I do”

”For a long time, I haven’t been so proud of myself, and that night, talking to people and listening to their feedback made me feel so good.”



Arsenal in the Community offered NAS members a private stadium tour in December 2023. The members were fascinated by the iconic venue while drawing and listening to the history of Arsenal and its achievements. This outing generated ideas on how NAS can reach more asylum seekers and refugee communities to promote recovery and well-being and made us all proud of what we have achieved as a Charity so far. Arsenal Hub and its work with local communities have been a great adventure and inspiration.

“I loved everything. Everything was nice, from the Arsenal people, it was an amazing experience being there.”

“I loved the atmosphere, listening to stories and seeing everyone enjoying it.”



During Springtime, we had another opportunity to do the project Walk in Nature with the much-loved Linda from Urban Forest Collective and her wonderful team, supported by Leidy. Our members immersed themselves in diverse outdoor experiences by visiting Edible Landscapes, Woodberry Down Nature Reserve, Waterlow Park, and Camden Canal, exploring the relationship to water through sketching, walking, and looking at the plants—using elements of horticulture, art, and ecotherapy to promote well-being and creativity.

“It was great to do art outdoors where we got to see nature and do different things like going to the boat and dancing.”

“I never walked in London this way. It made me think of good memories of when I was a child and feeling more confident.”



On the 26th of April, NAS curated an exhibition called “In Between Spaces” celebrating 11 years of our presence in the community. We proudly exhibited 181 works of art, and yes, it was a massive project. We wanted our members to value what they do and who they are.

It is one of the biggest exhibitions we have set up and we are grateful to our community for helping to get it up and running. We wanted to exhibit a retrospective of some of the incredible images our members have produced throughout the years in the studio.

The success of this exhibition is a testament to the talent and hard work of our members and was very well attended by supporters and members of the public. Thank you so much to our hard-working Trustees for serving food and drink, being an incredible host throughout the evening, and their unwavering support for the studio. We also weren't aware that it would be our last exhibition at the IAF, so it was very special indeed.

“This exhibition was very important – it is hard to explain and put into words to understand what this means to us, it was different level”

“It feels so good to see what you made for everyone to see. It makes you feel proud and hopeful”



We started piloting our Peer-Led Day sessions in May 2024, designing and co-producing with everyone who wanted to be involved and included in this project's journey. We piloted nine sessions in total, running weekly from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. One studio member took on the responsibility of facilitating the group during this time.

“This group made me feel stronger in building relationships with others. I have learned to be responsible for group facilitation and how to communicate and listen to others' problems. It helped me to have a more positive attitude and motivation and to improve my social skills and talent.”



In June, we were invited by Claire Pollock, Partnerships Lead at Allford Hall Monaghan Morris Architects, our old friends and supporters, to celebrate Refugee Week. We spent a beautiful sunny day visiting their White Collar Factory, talking to their architects, sketching the London skyline from the rooftop terrace of the AHMM building, and listening to an inspirational life story from Majeda, who runs Syrian Sunflower Kitchen, who also made delicious food for us all. Here is a link to a lovely article published about this visit <http://www.newartstudio.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/New-Art-Studio-Visits-Allford-Hall-Monaghan-Morris.pdf>

“It was an important day to be with people who care. We don’t just sit there. We also share our knowledge about what we do - it goes both ways”

“It was my dream to view London from above and visit such beautiful buildings”



We continued our successful partnership with ZSL. We owe much to Lucy Brown, who runs the Public Engagement with Science programme at the Institute of Zoology ZSL, who invited scientists to share knowledge with our NAS members about their work with hedgehogs, toads, and birds, their adaptations, survival, and extinction, and how conservation can help species preserve nature’s diversity. This workshop was like all of our visits, educational and creative, with our members engaging scientists with creative practice and their own stories of survival and artwork.

“It was good to learn about animals, why some animals are near extinction, and how to protect them, so that was nice.”

“They are specialists in animals, but our studio also has a place in the world. We also find beautiful things in difficult situations and can make beautiful things. We also have knowledge of adapting to different cultures.”



A studio member's journey:

Lila has been attending the group since 2014. She is in her 40s and came to the UK as a single mum with a tiny baby. She fled her country after being badly harassed and imprisoned for her human rights activities for women. Lila suffers from PTSD and depression and finds it hard to focus or concentrate. She lived until recently in a homeless hostel with her teenage son, sharing a small room and bed. The struggle of bringing up her son on her own, compounded by her trauma and by living in poverty affected her ability to engage emotionally and intellectually with her surroundings. She is mostly silent, keeps herself away from others and finds it difficult to express herself in English.

She feels very proud that she has never missed any of her sessions on Monday. Her committed attendance to the group has helped her to engage in her art practice, developing her technique and using art to express her feelings, thoughts and views on women's experiences. Last year, she decided to volunteer with one of the organisations that NAS did a project with. This experience helped her feel more integrated into wider society and build her social and professional skills. The exhibition at Garden Court Chambers helped her develop her confidence and belief in her potential. She has started taking online training courses to become a teaching assistant and is thinking about her future job opportunities. In the group, Lila has become more open to discussing her feelings, challenges, frustrations and setbacks and she is able to reveal more of her feelings of encouragement and care for others. The studio's consistency has helped Lila rebuild her trust in humanity, friendships and relationships inside and outside the studio.

'This year, I feel more comfortable and enjoy new experiences, meeting new people and doing more things with other groups and professionals. I also made a speech in front of lots of people and invited my family to see me. I wanted everyone to understand and see my talent and skills, my contribution to the community and my involvement as a person in society. It was a very motivating experience to have a chance to exchange knowledge and experiences with others.'

We are very much looking forward to another creative year ahead, bringing New Art Studio's unique service offering to a growing number of refugees and asylum seekers, enabling our participants to grow in artistic and personal strength and supporting them on their path to healing and social integration through artmaking within a community. We will welcome our delightful new volunteer, Maria, to join us this year, and we are excited to be an Educational Placement Provider to an art therapy student completing her final year of training on an Art Psychotherapy Masters programme.

We sincerely thank you for all your support and belief in our project and what we do.

Without your kindness and generosity, this would not be possible.

Trustees

Katharine Edwards (Chair of Trustees)

Siobhan O'Connell

Katharine Wynne

Funmibi Ogunlesi

Co-Directors

Jasmin Topalusic and Ruanna Brook

Thanks to our supporters

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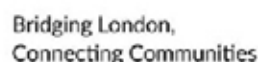
Hilden Charitable Fund

New Art Studio is a registered charity No. 1192463

Registered address

2, Parkhurst Road, London N7 0SF

www.newartstudio.org.uk



Accounts 2023-24

INCOME	£	Expenditure	£
Grants	46000	Salaries	27620
Corporate Donations	250	Studio Rental	7351
Individual and In-kind donations	2829	Travel subsidy and food for beneficiaries	5501
Art sales and card sales	3365	Art material and exhibition cost	4656
		Professional fees, insurance, clinical supervision	5241
	£52,445		£50,369

On 31st July 2023 the current assets held in cash and at the bank were £17,458. The income during FY23-24 was £52,445 as listed above.

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