



Yorkshire Artspace/ Annual Report 2018-2019



Image; Exchange Place Studios post-refurbishment with its splendid new sign/credit Mark Howe



Contents

Page no.	<i>Introduction</i>
3	<i>Foreword</i>
4	<i>Our Organisation</i>
12	<i>Our Programme</i>
19	<i>Looking forward to 2019/20</i>
20	<i>Our Finances</i>

Introduction

Established in 1977, Yorkshire Artspace Society's aim is to be a **centre of excellence for the support of artists and makers** by providing good quality affordable studio space, tailored professional development programmes for artists at all career stages and raising the profile of artists and their practices locally, nationally and internationally. The Society is run by a **Board** of 6 Directors and 7 members of **staff**.

Our membership is made up of a wide variety of artists and makers and over 170 members currently have studios at Yorkshire Artspace's 3 premises; opened in 2001 **Persistence Works** is our flagship studio complex, purpose-built, architecture award winning and bang in the heart of the city; **Exchange Place Studios** is our pioneering new studio building in the heart of the city's historic and evolving Castlegate; **Manor Oaks Studios** is our neighbourhood studio, opened in 2009 on a historic, urban agricultural site with partner Green Estate.

Our studio selection process is based on our artistic policy which demands that studio holders are **'in active production of their own creative art or craft work for a significant proportion of their time'**. This ensures that the valuable, and publicly funded, resource that we offer supports professional artists moving towards full time commitment to their practice. The support that we offer to studio holders through our programme helps them on this journey to excellence. By providing artists with workspace and professional development support we actively enable their engagement with audiences on a massive scale.

Our **Programme** is wide-ranging, encompassing professional development for artists and makers as well as a wide range of activities that offer inspiring and meaningful opportunities to the public to engage with creativity, focussing on the neighbourhoods known to have low take up of the city's cultural offer. Public access to the studios and artistic product is enabled through the annual **Open Studios** event in November and a dynamic **exhibition programme**.

There is lots of information about Yorkshire Artspace the organisation, our studios, our programmes and our artists at www.artspace.org.uk



Foreword 2018/19

The honour of writing the foreword to the annual report usually falls to the current chair, often with a little help from me, but this year our new Chair Dorrien Peters has granted me the honour writing in my own name.

In 1992 I moved back to my home town of Sheffield after studying and then working away for ten years. I knew I wanted to use my qualification and my passion for art and design and looked about the city to see what was happening. I wrote to six visual arts organisations to offer my services as a volunteer and only got a reply from one – a nice letter from the director of Yorkshire Artspace, David Manley. On a very rainy day in June I arrived at Sydney Works in a wet red kagoule and, well, 27 years later it's time to move on.

My heart has always been, and will always be, in buildings. As part of my degree we studied the history of architecture and I remember vividly sitting on the top deck of a Leicester bus after the first lecture thinking it was so amazing that you didn't have to go to a special place to see architectural design, it was around you all the time. After moving to Sheffield I married an architect, who very kindly moved up to Sheffield and inspired the title of our first capital project *Persistence Works*. Couldn't have done it without him.

The focus for Yorkshire Artspace, at least for the next few years, will be on programming so it's time to be brave and make a big leap to help other organisations realise their capital projects. Making *Persistence Works* was the most exciting thing I have been involved with, and I am reminded of how beautiful the building is and how lucky we are to work there every time I show a new group round and see their jaws drop. The most beautiful studio spaces in the world? Probably (although the access directly to the beach at Porthmeor, St Ives, takes some beating).

I also really enjoyed working with SOAR and Green Estate on the neighbourhood studios at Knutton Road and Manor Oaks, even though the leases meant our time there was relatively brief. But securing and refurbishing Exchange Place Studios has been the most joyful capital project, working with a lovely capital team, friendly contractors, and with such a warm and supportive group of artists and makers.

None of our capital projects would have been possible without the support, encouragement and expertise of our Board members over the years. Having a good Board is so important to organisations that have ambition to grow and develop, and they do it all out of the goodness of their hearts.

Leaving the staff team will be the hardest of all - some of them have put up with me for decades! Yorkshire Artspace has been a truly amazing place to work and I have been constantly in awe of the creativity that emerges from the studios. Long may it continue.

Kate Dore

Director, Yorkshire Artspace Society



1/Our Organisation

Yorkshire Artspace Society is a **registered charity** and a **company limited by guarantee**. The Society is owned by its members, governed by a board of 6 directors and managed by a staff team of 7 (around 5 full time equivalent). We have around 170 studio holders in 3 studio complexes, of which 1 is rented and two owned by the Society on long leases.

Our Board in 2018/19

We operate a rolling chair programme designed to invigorate an already highly skilled board and encourage more buy-in to our fundraising, sponsorship and profile-raising ambitions. The programme offers individual board members a time-limited period to invest more time in delivering their own manifesto, reflecting their skills, experience and passions.

For the period of this report our chair was **Neil MacDonald** a past Master Cutler well networked within local and regional manufacturing as well as being on several other key city organisations' boards. Other board members were **Dorrien Peters**, partner at law firm Irwin Mitchell (vice chair), **Paul Houghton** partner at Grant Thornton, **Tom Tobia** a creative entrepreneur and founder of Makerversity, with campuses at Somerset House, London and Amsterdam, **Professor Sally Wade**, director of the Sheffield Institute of Arts at Sheffield Hallam University and **Surriya Falconer** of Falconer Associates who stepped down from the Board at the AGM in October 2018 after many years of dedicated support and encouragement.

Our Staff in 2018/19

Our small staff team has over 90 years of continual employment representing an incredible body of experience and skills that is drawn on by the organisation and by the visual arts community nationally. We are seen as national exemplars in the fields of studio development/management, artists' professional development and community engagement. By drawing on this knowledge, continually improving systems and forging strategic partnerships we have been able to expand both our studio portfolio and our programme over the last 17 years without significantly increasing our staff costs.



Our **Director**, Kate Dore, has overseen the development of Yorkshire Artspace since 1994 expanding both our studio portfolio and our programme. Kate is supported by all the board members and fellow members of the Sheffield Culture Consortium. Kate is stepping down as director in September 2019.



Operations Manager Stuart Wright comes from an accountancy background and oversees both the finances of the organisation and the efficient running of our premises. Over the last 16 years Stuart has set in place systems that enable us to manage an increasing number of studios without significantly increasing overheads, leading to a steady increase in our earned income. Stuart works closely with Kate on budgeting and the viability and delivery of new studio buildings. Stuart is supported by board member Paul Houghton, partner at one of the UK's leading accountancy firms.



Programme Manager Rachael Dodd develops and delivers our programme. At the heart is the support we offer to artists and makers to develop their practice. As part of the crafting of the programme we ensure we offer a wide variety of opportunities for the public to engage with artists and makers. Rachael has 20 years' experience of developing education and outreach programmes for Yorkshire Artspace and is supported by Kate on programme development, Jane on programme delivery, by Stuart on forecasting and by various board members.



The whole team is supported by **Office Manager** Anita Lloyd. Anita provides financial and systems support and manages Penny Ashmore who started with us as an apprentice aged 16 and is now our **Assistant Administrator** and front of house at Persistence Works.

Anita also helps nurture the creative community at Yorkshire Artspace through social events and studio tours for prospective newcomers as well as managing the selection process for studio holders.





Jane Elliott has been with us for 5 years and as **Programme and Communications Administrator** supports Rachael in delivering programme activity and leads on communications for the organisation. Jane began her maternity leave in June 2019. Congratulations Jane!



Becky Heath, who joined us in September 2015 as our Creative Apprentice, becoming our **Digital Marketing Assistant** and front of house at Exchange Place Studios, moved on to a 'real' job in digital marketing in February – congratulations Becky!

Catherine Maddox stepped in to cover Becky's role temporarily.

All staff photos by Mark Howe



Our Studios in 2018/19

We are proud that the Arts Council calls us '**one of the leading artist studio spaces in Europe**'. The work space that we provide is affordable, accessible, well managed, warm, safe and secure. Opened in 2001 **Persistence Works** is our flagship studio complex, purpose-built, architecture-award-winning and bang in the heart of the city. **Manor Oaks Studios** is our neighbourhood studio, opened in 2009 on a historic, urban agricultural site with partner Green Estate. During 2018/19 we continued to operate with 100% occupancy of our studio spaces.

Exchange Place Studios, launched summer 2013 in the fast changing Castlegate area of Sheffield, is our latest thriving community of artists and craftspeople with regular exhibitions and events. In March 2017 we submitted a **small capital application to Arts Council England** for funding to buy a long lease on Exchange Place Studios and replace the roof and windows to save energy. Owners Sheffield City Council supported the application by agreeing an undervalue on the property. In July 2017 we were delighted that our applications to Arts Council England for NPO Funding 2018-22 and the small capital grants programme were both successful. Start on site was March 2018 and completion was March 2019. A summary of the capital project outcomes;

Studio spaces secured for 85 artists and makers beyond 2018 We have secured a 99-year lease from Sheffield City Council with a 40-year buy back clause giving us a minimum of 40 years of security in the building.

Two refurbished project spaces for audience engagement and professional development events New lighting, flooring, windows, storage and painted. Better access for the public including wheelchair users.



North Gallery



South Gallery *Photos by Mark Howe*



Improved and safer working environment for artists, staff and audiences The office and reception have been refurbished with new flooring, new access to the galleries, better lighting and a more secure front door and entry system.

Projected 45% reduction in heating costs (£8.5k p/a) Too early to report back on this as the window installation was only completed in January 2019. We will continue to report energy consumption to Julie's Bicycle. However, studio holders are reporting having to turn down radiators (or off!) since the new windows were installed so we are feeling very positive.

Securing £23k of earned income p/a for programming Secured through the rental income from the studios. This 'studio contribution' allows us to self-fund core programme activity such as the Starter Studio programme and our annual Open Studios.

Positive impact on our reputation, culturally, socially and environmentally We are a member of the **Castlegate Partnership** including the Friends of the Old Town Hall and of Sheffield Castle, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, the Culture Consortium, local hoteliers and traders as well as Sheffield City Council, formed to promote a collaborative and innovative approach to regenerating the area. Having pioneered creative/cultural Castlegate regeneration we are enjoying seeing a rapid increase in creative and digital businesses establishing themselves here - Kollider, Bright Box, NVM, CADS.

Having hosted the **Re-make Castlegate** project in 2014 with the University of Sheffield we have been involved in the revisioning of Castlegate from our early occupation. From 2019 we will be enjoying improvements to public realm through Sheffield City Council's **Sheaf Fields** park to the back of Exchange Place Studios and **Grey to Green** Phase 2 transforming Exchange Place itself with significant areas of wild flowers, trees and shrubs replacing the redundant carriageway. Cycle paths will replace all but one of the current 6 carriageways – great news for the many studio holders that cycle here. Through the creation of Sustainable Urban Drainage, Grey to Green's new public space doubles up as a rain garden, moderating the flow of water and creating innovative sustainable drainage alongside public art.

Access to diverse audiences

We have worked with local partners on public **festivals and events**, including the Dorothy Pax and the Canal and Rivers Trust in Victoria Quays, and with the new creative pop ups on Exchange Street.

Our first exhibition in the refurbished North Gallery was Jonathan Turner's Sunday Best **17th November - 14th December 2018**. Sunday Best was an exhibition of portraits and sound recordings exploring notions of personal identity and its relationship to community through dress, capturing people in their Sunday Best in the Burngreave area of the city. The combination of Jonathan's photographs and Tim Neal's sound recordings presented us with a selection of Sheffield people viewed within the context of their community. The associated photography workshops were publicised to targeted communities through the Burngreave Messenger and has resulted in the tentative beginnings of new relationship with a Burngreave-based housing association.



Strategic Development in 2018/19

We develop a **new business plan** every 5 years and update it annually. As a small organisation, we find that a major consultation with artists and stakeholders every 5 years is manageable and has a direct impact on the business plan development. In between, we evaluate our programme annually and feed this in to an Audience Development Plan. Progress against the Business Plan is reported on quarterly at our open Board meetings and annually in our Annual Report.

In 2018/19, we held 2 working lunches for studio holders, Board, staff to review our exhibition application process and 2 to review our health and safety and risk assessment procedures and Studio Handbooks. Consultation on the new business plan 2021-26 will begin in Spring 2020.

In early 2019 we updated staff job descriptions and undertook a salaries benchmarking exercise.

Advocacy and Partnerships in 2018/19

We are an enabling organisation, actively working with partners to increase audiences for, and advocate on behalf of, arts and culture.

In 2017/18 we founded a new partnership with **Sheffield Institute of Arts** at Sheffield Hallam university enabling them to temporarily move their exhibition programme to Persistence Works.

We continue to enjoy a strong relationship with **Museums Sheffield: Millennium Gallery** with the Precious Little Gems showcase celebrating the work commissioned from our Starter Studio Programme silversmiths by **Sheffield Assay Office** and Museums Sheffield, and a showcase for our All Fired Up ceramic commissions from our Starter Studio in partnership with **South Yorkshire Housing Association**. The partnership ensures the work of our starter studio participants is exposed to a much wider audience.

As a member of **Sheffield Culture Consortium**, we work hard to deliver a citywide cultural strategy which takes a coherent approach to the city's cultural offer and audience reach. Since its inception, the Consortium has raised more than £2m for additional cultural activity in the city resulting in a stronger, more vibrant and joined-up cultural offer. The Consortium's main achievements this year included;

- support for festivals and marketing the city's cultural offer through a second **Cultural Destinations** programme which culminated in the stunning **Mausoleum of the Giants** installation by **Phlegm**;
- **Making Ways**, an ambitious three-year Arts Council Ambition for Excellence project that is demonstrating, celebrating and developing exceptional contemporary visual art produced in Sheffield. The Making Ways programme has had a major impact on excellence in the visual arts in Sheffield. Many of our studio holders took part in the first **Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair** to be held at the Millennium Galleries and as a result some of our silversmiths were offered a paid opportunity to show work at the Manchester Craft and Design Centre. Making Ways is supporting the development of a **Sheffield Visual Arts Statement** during 2019.



- Our Director invests a great deal of time and energy in this exemplar of partnership working and was **Chair** of the consortium from October 2016 to September 2017, leading on the development of the Sheffield Culture Plan.
- Our Programme Manager is Chair of the Consortium's **SNAP** network for cultural providers in 2017/18 and 18/19, and on the board of **Create Sheffield**, working with children and young people, to enrich the range and quality of cultural provision for young people in Sheffield.
- The **Art in the Home** event introduced collectors to Yorkshire Artspace and was the inspiration for our 2018 Open Studios exhibition and marketing campaign that was, again, our most successful ever.

We play an active role in the regeneration of the Castlegate area of Sheffield, home of Exchange Place Studios. Since February 2016, our Director has been a member of the **Castlegate Partnership** made up of both universities, the local authority, local businesses and not for profit groups actively supporting Castlegate's regeneration through culture, heritage, commerce and the built environment.

We are also a partner in Site gallery's **City of Ideas** urban realm project, another Arts Council Ambition for Excellence scheme, connecting to the multi-million-pound investment in Sheffield City Council's Knowledge Gateway Project – an urban regeneration project within the Cultural Industries Quarter that includes millions of pounds of investment in public realm and capital projects in the area.

Our Commitment to Diversity in 2018/19

Progress has been made since 2009 in attracting **applications for studio space** from an increasingly diverse group of artists. This can largely be attributed to the development of Exchange Place Studios located in an area of the city centre close to large inner city residential communities with shops and stalls that attract a multicultural clientele. We have now secured the long-term future of Exchange Place Studios by purchasing a long lease.

We provide affordable studios to artists at **all career stages** from emerging to mid-career and established. Increasingly, our **studio holders** are able to work full time in their creative practice and we hope this reflects the professional development opportunities we are able to offer through our programmes and the creative communities that we develop. We maintain a good **gender balance** and attract artists **of all ages**. We receive an increased number of applications from artists that described themselves as **disabled**.

We aim to reflect the diversity of society in our **staff team**. We now have staff members in their teens, 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s. We have one male staff member. All staff members would describe themselves as British/ European. One staff member is partially sighted. We will aim to reflect the diversity of society in the makeup of our **Board**. As part of our annual Board review we reflect on the overall role of the Board and the skills and experience we need as an evolving organisation.



As a member of the **Sheffield Culture Consortium** we share good practice around diversity and extend the sharing opportunities to other arts and cultural organisations. We were inspired by the Consortium's diversity event hosted by Sheffield Theatres and Sheffield Hallam University in January 2019 and are working with consortium members on a Diverse Board recruitment event.

Our programme manager and administrator joined the **Audience Diversity Academy** training programme looking at areas of programme activity to broaden audiences/diversity. Focused activity was around developing a younger audience to come to our Open Studio event and led us to Longley 6th Form College, in an area known to have low take-up of city's cultural offer.

Our first exhibition in the refurbished **North Gallery at Exchange Place Studios** was Jonathan Turner's Sunday Best an exhibition of portraits and sound recordings exploring notions of personal identity and its relationship to community through dress, capturing people in their Sunday Best in the Burngreave area of the city, a selection of Sheffield people viewed within the context of their community. The associated photography workshops were publicised to targeted communities through the Burngreave Messenger and has resulted in the tentative beginnings of new relationship with a Burngreave-based housing association.

Two of the Ways of Making exhibitions at **Persistence Works Gallery** targeted diverse audiences; Andrew Hunt's Portraits from the Market was incredibly successful in bringing an audience from the Moor Markets and Mir Jansen's At Your Service celebrated and engaged with local NHS workers. We continue to support art week at Manor Lodge primary school, in an area that is in the most deprived 10% in the country and engage with South Yorkshire Housing Association clients through the All Fired Up commissions for our ceramic starter studio makers.

Our Responsibility for the Environment in 2018/19

We recognise that by reducing the negative environmental impacts of our own activities we can not only contribute to the preservation of our environment but also reduce our spending, allowing us to make the most of our funding and keep studio rents as low as possible for the benefit of our artists. Our Environmental Policy is supported by an Environmental Action Plan Checklist which is informed by our environmental monitoring and measurement. Once a month we revisit our Environmental Action Plan Checklist as a staff team. We report on progress at quarterly Board meetings and in our Annual Report. The policy is reviewed by our Board on a bi-annual basis. Our key achievement in 2018/19 were;

- implementing actions to **reduce energy use** - the recently completed capital project has improved energy efficiency by insulating and recovering the roof, replacing all the windows with double glazed units, replacing the lift with a new energy efficient model and replacing the lighting in the galleries and reception. At **Persistence Works** we have replaced the external and gallery lighting systems with LEDs.
- identifying and implementing actions to **reduce waste and increase recycling** at Persistence Works and Exchange Place Studios



2/ Our Programme

Supporting the Creative Community in 2017/18

Through our programme, we are committed to providing opportunities for artists to extend their practice and develop their learning. We offer **professional development** across career stages, with particular support for emerging artists. As well as professional development programmes we offer **spaces** where studio holders can develop their own initiatives to show and sell work and to run classes and workshops.

Starter Studio Programmes

To foster new talent and support early career artists, Yorkshire Artspace runs two Starter Studio Programmes: one for Silversmiths and Jewellers and one for Ceramicists. Designed to help ambitious and entrepreneurial artists at an early career stage to develop their skills and creative enterprises in a supportive environment, the programmes offer access to shared workspace and equipment, technical and mentor support, business advice and commission and exhibition opportunities.

Running since 2001 with over 37 beneficiaries, the **Starter Studio Programme for Silversmiths and Jewellers** saw three makers recruited onto the programme in 2018/19 - **Holly Clifford, Abigail Asher and Helena Russell**. They joined second years **Aiofe White, Daisy Lee-Overton, Suzanne Berry, and Francisca Onumah** who were eligible to apply for the Precious Little Gems commissions.

Since 2004, the Sheffield Assay Office has generously supported commissioned work from participants in our Starter Studio Programme for Silversmiths and Jewellers. The work produced each year is held between the collections of Museums Sheffield: Metalwork Gallery and the Sheffield Assay Office and shown to the public at both venues.



Images; Precious Little Gems Commissions by Daisy Lee-Overton and Francisca Onumah



We established the **Starter Studio Programme for Ceramicists** at Manor Oaks Studios in 2010 and we have supported 16 ceramicists to date. In 2018/19 we recruited three makers on to the programme; **Carla Murdoch**, **Kate Langrish-Smith** and **Rebecca Perry** joined second year **Rebecca Brown** at the new studio at **Persistence Works**.

2018/19 was the second year of our partnership with **South Yorkshire Housing Association**, **Museums Sheffield** and **Potclays Limited** to offer the 'All Fired Up' commission to our ceramic starter studio holders. The integral engagement sessions provided opportunities for SYHA clients to become involved in the design and making process of the new artworks. They also provided a valuable opportunity for the commissioned makers to gain experience of planning, managing and delivering engagement activity, an element now often included in commission briefs.

Rebecca Brown made a ceramic book containing pages of memories made with SYHA clients in as part of the Live Well programme to support elderly people living in their own homes.

Image; All Fired Up Ceramic Commission

Starting Out, artists' professional development programme

Starting Out has been delivered by us each year for over 16 years, providing *free* information about starting, developing and sustaining a creative arts practice.

In 2018/19, Starting Out was delivered to our Starter Studio programme participants through face to face sessions with business coaches/advisors **Patricia van den Akker** of The Design Trust and **Pete Mosley**.

We also offered sessions to the wider studio holder cohort on **How to Approach Galleries** led by Ed Chadwick of Snug Gallery in Hebden Bridge, **Selling Online** by Camilla Westergaard of Folksy Sheffield, **Analyzing your business development** by Pottery West, **HMRC/Accounting** with Allotts accountants and Basic **Bookkeeping and Quickbooks** by Anita Lloyd.

Stars on Starting Out in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University/SIA saw two-hander talks by ceramicists Phoebe Cummings & Penny Withers and fashion commentator Caryn Franklin with knitwear designer/maker Miriam Griffiths.



Ways of Making, a new artists' professional development programme helping us to reaching new audiences in 2018/19

Through our programme we are committed to providing a wide range of opportunities for audiences to engage with the work of artists and makers in meaningful ways. We aim to work in partnership to reach new audiences and develop and expand the public offer that we make.

In 2017/18 we launched our new two-year Ways of Making exhibition programme in the gallery at Persistence Works, supported by funding from Sheffield Culture Consortium's Making Ways project. We matched the funding from Making Ways with what was previously our Microgrant fund (earned income) enabling us to meet the a-n fair rate of pay for exhibiting artists. 2018/19 saw the second year of Ways of Making with a further 3 proposals that were strong in engaging/attracting new audiences and representing a mix of contemporary art and craft.

Portraits from the Market was an exhibition by award winning portrait painter and studio holder **Andrew Hunt** in collaboration with Sheffield based portraiture photographer **Chris Saunders**, showing a number of Andrew's huge hyper-real portraits alongside 50 photographs by Chris of people who visited or work at the Moor Market. During the exhibition period 17th May – 24th June 2019, the Persistence Works Gallery became Andrew's studio, so visitors could watch him complete the portraits, providing an insight into an artist's methods and techniques – something we rarely have the opportunity to share and experience. Some of the subjects from the market were invited to come and view the finished portraits including Ivy, below.



Image;



After Andrew Hunt's hugely successful show at Persistence Works Gallery, the 4th exhibition in our Ways of Making series was ***At Your Service*** by **Mir Jansen** from September 27th - November 4th 2018. It featured a number of portrait paintings of European employees at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals in the context of Brexit and as the National Health Service celebrated its 70th birthday. This thought provoking exhibition shared the details and fragments of individuals' lives working in the National Health Service today, and celebrates what unites as well as what sets them apart. Over the course of one year Mir interviewed a number of European employees of Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, asking all of them the same 6 questions.



"The NHS must be one of the most culturally diverse organisations in the country and yet in the referendum there was no mention of how dependent it was on the skills and hard work of immigrants. This uniquely British institution has just celebrated its 70th anniversary on 5th July. I wanted to find out what they loved about the NHS, as well as what their concerns were for its future. This exhibition is a tribute to both, a portrait of them at our service."

Image; Detail from 'At Your Service' piece by Mir Jansen

Drawing inspiration from the rock formations of the surrounding Peak District, ceramicist and Yorkshire Artspace studio holder **Penny Withers** created a new body of work for ***Scale*** 14th February - 24th March 2019. Well known for her beautifully glazed pots and freeform sculptural pieces, Penny was able to experiment with making larger pieces, playing with scale and with the physicality of building large sectional pieces. Penny worked with local climbers to find out more about the intricate surface details on rocky outcrops such as Stannage and Curbar Edge, and this collaboration brought elements of these forms directly into her work.



Image;

'Through the compelling alchemy of ceramics, the forming, glazing and firing; I feel my connection with the world of physical laws and raw materials is reaffirmed.'

The exhibitions included a range of content and activities that helped us attract and engage with new and diverse audiences. The three Ways of Making exhibitions in 2018/19 attracted **2,525 visitors**, of which 259 were children and young people under 25. We had 168 attendances at artist talks.



Other exhibitions and events at our studios in 2017/18

The offer of low cost/no cost spaces for our creative community to programme showed real promise in this year with a lot of activity happening throughout the year.



Our first exhibition in the refurbished North Gallery **Exchange Place Studios** was Jonathan Turner's Sunday Best **17th November - 14th December 2018**. Sunday Best was an exhibition of portraits and sound recordings exploring notions of personal identity and its relationship to community through dress, capturing people in their Sunday Best in the Burngreave area of the city. The combination of Jonathan's photographs and Tim Neal's sound recordings presented us with a selection of Sheffield people viewed within the context of their community. The associated photography workshops were publicised to targeted communities through the Burngreave Messenger and has resulted in the tentative beginnings of new relationship with a Burngreave-based housing association. Over **800 visitors** attended.

In 2018 we also rented exhibition space to Sheffield Hallam University's **Sheffield Institute of Arts** enabling them to temporarily relocate their exhibition programme to Persistence Works.



Open Studios

Our annual open studios weekend in November is our biggest public event and this year we had another record number of visitors– 2,431! This year, audiences told us they had travelled from further afield, especially London, after picking up save the date cards from our studio holders at fairs during the year. (We also held a mini open studios at Persistence Works in September to celebrate the reopening of Site Gallery.)



Spread across three sites, over 120 artists opened their doors and welcomed people into their creative spaces. To attract a wide audience we offered free, family friendly activities including Woven Christmas with artist **Seiko Kinoshita** / Mosaic making with mosaic artist **Coralie Turpin** / Make a Decorative Wall Hanging with artist **Paula Kirby** / Thinking of You card making with designer/card publisher **Lucy Ledger**.

Image; Seiko Kinoshita's workshop at Open Studios 2018

Inspired by the **Making Ways Art in the Home** event, for the first time at Open Studios 2018 we created room sets in the gallery at Persistence Works, offering ideas and inspiration for how the work of our artists and makers can sit within your home. Each room was centred around a piece of furniture from one of our studios; a bed by **Henk Littlewood** from Exchange Place Studios; a desk by **Finbarr Lucas** from Manor Oaks Studios; and a low table by **John Thatcher** from Persistence Works. Additional furniture and lighting was supplied by Sheffield based 20th century specialists **Studio2021**. Each room was dressed with paintings, prints, ceramics, sculpture and textiles by nearly 40 of our artists and makers, creating homely but desirable domestic spaces.





Getting out and about

In 2018/19 we had a presence at **Art in the Gardens** (silversmith **Josephine Gomersall** below), **Earth & Fire** and **Sheffield Ceramics Fair** to showcase and promote our Starter Studio programme and our Open Studios event.



As a legacy of the 2016/17 *School of Makers* residency, 30 Y3 children at **Manor Lodge** primary school took part in artist-led sessions with **Miriam Griffiths** in school plus a visit to Manor Oaks Studios to meet the artists as part of their annual Art Week.

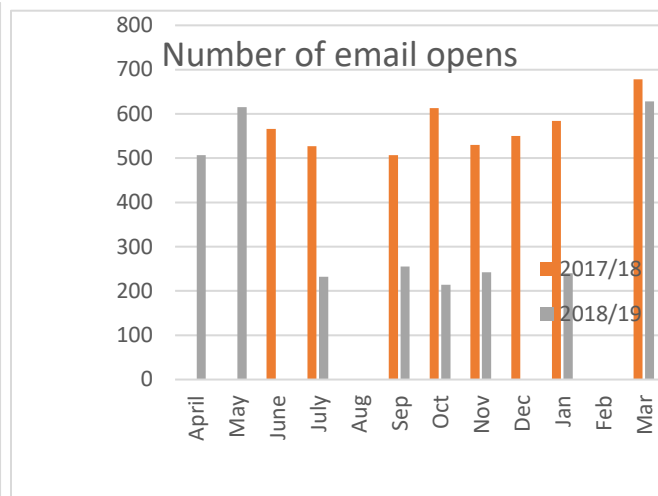
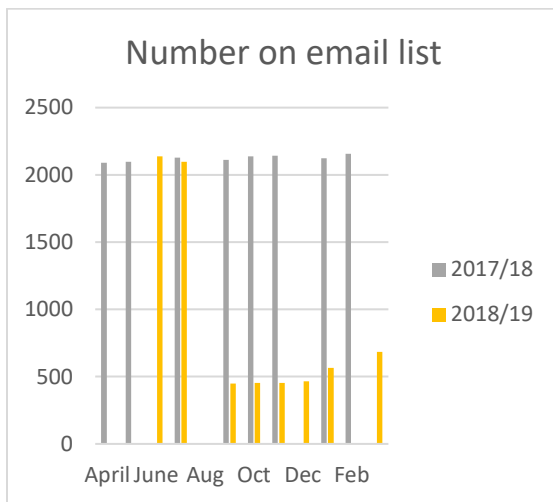


Our digital audiences in 2018/19

Our new **website** continued to attract more **active users** peaking at 3,000 for open studios in November (up from 2,600 in 2017/18). The number of visitors driven to the website from Facebook increased from 29% (2017/18) to 41% (2018/19) of total traffic. Social media together (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) generated 48% of website visits.

Facebook followers increased by 11% to 2,217. Similarly encouraging increases via **Instagram**, where an increase of both the quality and quantity of our posts has achieved results with followers up to 3,088 – an increase of 39%. **Twitter** followers increased by 7% to 4,652.

The mailing list for our **e-newsletter** was initially decimated by the new GDPR regulations. We asked everyone to sign up to the new list and lost around 80%, but by the end of the period the opening rate had almost recovered, showing we had kept our active audience.



Looking forward to 2019/20

With work complete on Exchange Place Studios, the Board has decided to take a break from further studio expansion. 2019/20 will be the start of a **focus on our programme**, working towards an open review with stakeholders in Spring 2020. The appointment of a **new director** with a passion for programming is ideally timed.

Artist **Jo Peel** has been appointed to create a **new art work for the façade of Persistence Works** as part of the City of Ideas partnership. The art work will incorporate elements of green living wall by Professor Nigel Dunnnett of the University of Sheffield.

Grey to Green Phase 2 will see the making of a new urban garden outside Exchange Place Studios, linking directly to the beautiful Victoria Quays.



3/Our Finances 2018/19

Our Business Model

Our business model is simple; **earned rental income from the studios** covers all the running costs and the management of the premises (including building a contingency fund) and any surplus we invest in programming. The surplus has increased with the number of studios available at Exchange Place from £0 in 2011/12 to £23k in 2018/19 thanks to our ability, through good management and sheer hard work, to manage twice as many studios with a small staff team.

Strategic Delivery Partnerships

We have developed a core professional development programme for artists, including open studios, that we can fund through our earned income, and forge **strategic delivery partnerships** for additional programme activity such as exhibitions, community engagement and events. This enables us to build on learning and, crucially, access new audiences through partners' networks.

Funders, supporters and sponsors

We are very grateful for the relative stability that has been offered to our organisation by the **Arts Council England NPO** funding that supports programme and development roles plus a small amount of direct expenditure. We also enjoyed continued support from **Sheffield Assay Office** who sponsor the Precious Little Gems commissions for our Starter Studio Silversmiths and **Julie MacDonald** who has supported our relationship with Manor Lodge primary school for the second year.

Particular thanks this year goes to **funders** that have supported our capital project at Exchange Place Studios (and to all the **artists** there who donated work to the online art auction) and to **Mr and Mrs Tobias** for their very kind donation;





YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY LIMITED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS	TOTAL FUNDS
	2018 £	2018 £	2018 £	2017 £
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				
INCOMING RESOURCES from				
Donated Facilities	26,000		26,000	26,000
Charitable activities				
Support & promotion of arts/crafts	327,444	93,719	421,163	401,186
TOTAL	353,444	93,719	447,163	427,186
EXPENDITURE ON				
Charitable expenditure:				
Support and promotion of arts and Crafts	368,823	189,509	558,332	546,795
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(15,379)	(95,790)	(111,169)	(119,609)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total Funds brought forward	185,639	3,559,431	3,745,070	3,864,679
Total Funds carried forward	170,260	3,463,641	3,633,901	3,745,070



YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE SOCIETY LIMITED
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	3,485,323	3,632,207
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	26,718	6,663
Cash at bank and in hand	175,259	165,706
	<u>201,977</u>	<u>172,369</u>
CREDITORS:		
Amounts falling due within one Year	<u>(53,399)</u>	<u>(59,506)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	148,578	112,863
TOTAL ASSETS LESS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>3,633,901</u>	<u>3,745,070</u>
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Unrestricted funds	170,260	185,639
Restricted funds	<u>3,463,641</u>	<u>3,559,431</u>
	<u>3,633,901</u>	<u>3,745,070</u>

Yorkshire Artspace Society Limited

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