



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23
YORKSHIRE ARTSPACE

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AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The charity's objects as set out in the Memorandum & Articles of Association are to foster and promote the maintenance, improvement and development of artistic taste and the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of arts among the inhabitants of Sheffield.

Yorkshire Artspace is a registered charity and centre for creative production, providing studio space for over 170 artists and makers across two sites in Sheffield city centre. We provide high quality, affordable studio space and deliver an artist development programme which offers exhibition opportunities, talks and feedback sessions, presence at fairs, and subsidised bridging studios for early career creatives.

Established in 1977 by art graduates, Yorkshire Artspace was one of the first studio groups developed outside London. Since then, we've grown to become one of the largest and most established studio providers in the UK. In 2022 the Board developed a new Cause statement to guide purposeful development over the next ten years: Yorkshire Artspace exists to find and nurture talented artists and makers in all their diversity, support their professional careers, and offer creative opportunities to people in Sheffield.

Our community of painters, metalsmiths, ceramicists, fine artists, furniture makers, sculptors, jewellers, fashion designers and more is a unique hub of skills and experience. Our work is informed by consultation with our members in order to deliver activity that responds to their collective needs.

We are an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation, which enables us to programme activity in support of our cause. We achieve this by supporting creative careers through developing well equipped practice-specific workshop spaces, our wider artist development offer, and by creating opportunities for the public to engage with art through exhibitions, workshops and our annual Open Studios event.

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

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

The charity's principal activity is the provision of affordable workspace for artists and craftspeople. Various exhibition, support and engagement projects are in place.

The Society aims to maintain a 50:50 balance of visual artists and applied artists as studio holders, something that makes us a distinctive choice and that we are well-placed to support with the range of studio spaces we operate. Our Artistic Policy requires that prospective studio holders are able to demonstrate a continued commitment to maintaining a creative practice. While we actively encourage our studio holders to offer services and sell their work, their ideas, skills and creative vision must guide their practice and the work they produce. We invite applications when a space becomes available, and these applications are reviewed against a set of criteria. These criteria take into consideration the suitability of practice for the space, artistic merit, opportunity, and added value to the Yorkshire Artspace community.

Our programme is wide-ranging, encompassing development for artists and makers as well as a range of activities that offer inspiring and meaningful opportunities for the public to engage with creativity. Through our exhibition and engagement activity, 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 the public offer that we provide. Public access to the studios and artistic product is enabled through the annual Open Studios event in November and a dynamic exhibition programme.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The trustees have had due regard to guidance published by The Charity Commission on public benefit.

BOARD

Our Board has valuable expertise in premises management, legal, marketing, communications, commercial operations, fundraising, learning and participation, artist development and finance management.



1. **Miranda Plowden** (Chair 2022/23)
Business Development Director at South Yorkshire Housing Association;
2. **Sophy Sylvester** (Vice Chair 2022/23)
Head of Fundraising and Development at Doncaster Community Arts (darts);
3. **Rachelle Rowbottom** (Treasurer)
Partner at BHP LLP;
4. **Ceris Morris**
Director of Fundraising at the University of Sheffield;
5. **Meghan Goodeve**
Freelands Artist Programme Leader at the Freelands Foundation;
6. **Eddie Coates-Madden**
Head of Communications and Marketing at City of York Council;
7. **Kirsty Young**
Head of Marketing and PR at Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

STAFF

Yorkshire Artspace has five members of staff, two of whom are full-time.

Management Team



Georgina Kettlewell
Director



Anita Lloyd
Finance & Office Manager



Daniel Ogden
Business Development Manager

Programme Team



Rachael Dodd
Programme Producer



Tyler Mellins
Programme & Communications Officer

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of several paintbrushes. The brushes have dark, dense bristles and light-colored handles. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter, which gives it a monochromatic, artistic feel. The brushes are arranged in a way that some are in the foreground, slightly out of focus, while others are in the background, creating a sense of depth.

STUDIO PROVISION

STUDIOS

We are proud that the Arts Council calls us 'one of the leading artist studio spaces in Europe'. The workspace that we provide is affordable, accessible, well managed, warm, safe and secure.



Persistence Works (opened 2001) is a purpose-built studio complex located in the heart of Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter. It is home to around 75 artists. The building has won a number of awards for its architecture, and currently features the public artwork and living wall *Growing City* (2020) by artist Jo Peel.

Persistence Works features two gallery spaces. It is home to a new communal kiln yard facility with two gas-fired kilns, accessible to ceramicists for reduction firings.

This year we have redeveloped what was our Silversmithing Starter Studio into the Silver Space, a hub in the north for the support of the craft.

While Persistence Works is better equipped to host more industrial practices, together both our buildings are home to a thriving community that includes 170 visual artists, ceramicists, silversmiths, jewellers, painters, illustrators, printmakers, fashion and costume designers, photographers, sculptors and more.

Exchange Place Studios (opened 2013) is based in a 1920s Art Deco building in the fast-changing area of Castlegate. It is home to around 85 artists. The building sits beside the former site of Sheffield Castle (which in 2022-23 received £20m for redevelopment via the Levelling Up Fund) and is surrounded by the beautiful meadow planting and wildlife habitats of Grey to Green 2.

Exchange Place Studios features a project space which can be used by our members. It is also the new home of Carousel Print Studio, whose courses and open-access printmaking facilities opened to the public in September 2022.



More information about the artists who make up our community can be found on our website. Crucially, we own one of our buildings and operate the other on a long lease which grants our members more stability in comparison to rented or meanwhile studio spaces. We continued to work hard to maintain close to 100% occupancy across both our buildings.

Caring for the buildings our artists rely on and maintaining high standards of safety and security remain a high priority. In 2022/23 we replaced the fire panel, detectors and sounders at Exchange Place, and continued phased works to refurbish fire doors. The development of a 10-year buildings maintenance and development plan is informing reserve policy and income generation strategy development.

We are conscious of our environmental impacts and responsibilities as the owner of two large multi-occupancy buildings. We use Julie's Bicycle Industry Green Tools to pool and report data about the carbon emissions generated by our water, electricity and gas usage, and by our waste disposal. In 2022/23 we successfully secured a Low Carbon grant from Sheffield City Council towards the costs of installing LED lighting in all communal areas of our Persistence Works building.

SILVER SPACE

We have reimagined our Silversmithing Starter Studio as Silver Space, the hub for silversmithing in the north. Now set up to accommodate teaching, settled and flexible bench use, skills development and digital content creation, in support of makers and the craft's future.

This builds on the incredible legacy of fine metalworking in Sheffield and the established relationships built through over 20 years of supporting the craft, with the assistance, knowledge and support of Sheffield Assay Office alongside renowned designer makers Chris Knight, Brett Payne and Rebecca Joselyn. The programme and its commission opportunities have marked the start of many careers, with participants successfully becoming practicing silversmiths in Sheffield and around the UK.



Funders have supported our new vision for the facility, and this year we secured grant funding from the Goldsmiths Centre and the J G Graves Charitable Trust, seed funding from Sheffield City Council, and a Digital Innovation grant. We are developing a strategic partnership with the Contemporary British Silversmiths, following successfully hosting a residential Skills Training Programme in the facility in summer 2022.

Recent alumni of our Silversmithing Starter Studio programme Abigail Asher, Holly Clifford and Helena Russell were all able to secure studio space in our Persistence Works building after leaving the programme. We sponsored all three, along with fellow alumni Georgia Clipsham, Francisca Onumah and Daisy Lee-Overton, to profile their work at Goldsmiths North in July 2022.

In 2022/23 we have secured funding from the Radcliffe Trust to provide funded 24/7 access to the space and a programme for support for silversmiths who want to base their emerging or established business in Silver Space. Up to two Fellowships will be awarded, with makers joining us in October 2023.

CLAY SPACE

In 2022 we rebranded the Ceramic Starter Studio as Clay Space. We have shifted its focus from business development support to the provision of subsidised bridging studio. All makers are based in the space for up to 3 years, with 24/7 access to subsidised studio space, glaze room and 3 electric kilns, and support from a kiln technician.



We began the year with an exhibition in our Persistence Works Gallery marking the exit of ceramic artists Fernanda Cortes and Cristina Cerulli from our Ceramic Starter Studio programme. This in turn produced an opportunity to showcase their work at the Millennium Gallery in October 2022 ending in March 2023.

Janet Barnes and Rebecca Read have both joined the studio. Janet Barnes previously helped to establish the Centre of Ceramic Art in York, and in January she and former colleagues gave Clay Space resident artists a tour of the collection at York Art Gallery.

We were again able to sponsor residents of Clay Space to appear at the annual Sheffield Ceramics Festival, taking place at Kelham Island Museum. Cristina Cerulli, Nichola Gensler, Janet Barnes and Rebecca Read were all in attendance to sell their work and promote Yorkshire Artspace.

THE KILN YARD

Our vision to create a communal kiln yard for professional and community use was realised this year, with funding from National Lottery Project Grants.

Design, construction and test firings of our two gas-fired kilns - one smaller 15 cu/ft and one large 60 cu/ft - has been completed and the formerly underused outdoor space to the rear of our Persistence Works studio complex is now functioning and we are proud to be managing the first communal gas-fired kiln facility in Sheffield.



Following a tender process, Mike Scown was appointed to construct the kilns and began work on site April 2022, with construction of both kilns complete by July. A kiln shelter to protect the kilns from the elements and work of the perimeter of the kiln yard to create more privacy and reduce cross-winds has been completed along with planting to improve the space for nature and wellbeing.

In September Mike Scown conducted a handover session with staff and compiled an operating and maintenance manual, followed by further test firings in the autumn to tune the kilns. The Hire Agreement, Hire Rates and Booking Form are all available to download from our website.

In December 2022 and January 2023 we carried out supported inductions for 4 of our members (professional ceramicists wanting to hire the kilns regularly), to enable them to carry out firings independently.

In February and March 2023 we held two Kiln Yard Open Days with targeted promotion to professional potters in Sheffield and the North to raise awareness, attracting 50 ceramicists in total.

In addition to the hireable facility for professionals we envisaged the facility as a hub for community activity. Delivery of engagement projects in the Kiln Yard (see ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS) made this a reality through partnership with artist collective Manor Maker and charity Project 6.

CAROUSEL PRINT STUDIO

Carousel Print Studio (formerly Sheffield Print Club) is a new community-led printmaking charity in Sheffield. They host a range of creative workshops and provide members with open-access printmaking facilities.



In 2022 we supported Carousel to open to the public after a closure of four years. Their new base is located on the ground floor of Exchange Place Studios, where we made physical improvements to widen doors for disability access, introduce natural light to the lobby area, and create a washout room. Carousel raised funds for equipment.

We granted Carousel a period free of charges until they commenced trading and this volunteer-led charity have been providing workshops and open-access use of the facilities since September 2022. This has added considerably to the vibrancy of the area and supported our charitable objectives.

A red-tinted photograph of a gallery space. In the foreground, a white table holds several small, textured ceramic or stone objects. In the middle ground, several people are standing and talking. In the background, a large window looks out onto a city street with a building that has "LIMITED" written on it. The text "GALLERY SPACES" is overlaid in the center in a white box.

GALLERY SPACES

MEMBER EXHIBITIONS

Our microgrant programme (see Artist Development) supports our members to deliver independent projects using our spaces, networks and staff expertise. In 2022/23, we were able to support five member exhibitions, with each artist receiving support from our staff team and a microgrant towards costs.



Andy Jackson's *New Dawns / Last Year* showed new works from his research-based painting practice. Removing fly posters from the streets around Exchange Place Studios and repositioning them as sites for painterly investigation, the resulting body of work raised questions around authorship, ownership and agency. Jackson hosted a public discussion about the work with artist and lecturer Gary Simmonds (SHU), which was well-attended.

Richard Johnson's *Dark Peak Demi Paradise* presented a collection of over 20 small paintings depicting remote parts of the Peak District. Made in the aftermath of his mother's death, each image was painted from Johnson's memory and captured a therapeutic escape into nature. A collection of found objects was displayed alongside a map of the sites that had inspired the work.

Manish Harijan's *Where Do We Draw The Line?* explored his experience of migrating to the UK. Through paintings and sculptural installations, the exhibition also drew upon his complicated identity as an 'untouchable' Dalit, a marginalised social caste in his

homeland of Nepal. The exhibition represented Manish's first solo exhibition since his 2012 showing in Kathmandu, when death threats from religious extremists forced him to close his exhibition and flee the country.



Alison J Carr's *Night World* presented a wide range of works-on-paper, exploring from various perspectives the relationship between women and the night. Some works examined showgirls and nighttime entertainment, while others were more introspective and drew from the imagery of Carr's dreams. Carr used the opportunity to launch her self-published book, *The Night*, which featured a reading event with acclaimed feminist writer Katherine Angel.

Finally, Cath Acons presented her first exhibition in over 25 years, having retired from the arts to care for a family member. *Voyages* featured over 4,000 paper vessels, which she began making when she first joined Yorkshire Artspace in 2021. Flooding the entire gallery space, the shapes and accompanying soundscape by Julia Schauerman invited visitors to consider what journeys they find themselves on in search of peace, comfort or safety.

PLATFORM

Through our partnership with Site Gallery and Bloc Projects, we support the delivery of Platform, a project led by Site Gallery in Sheffield. We host an annual solo exhibition for one of the programme's artists, supporting their creative and professional development.



This year's exhibition, *Platform 22: Gargantua*, showcased work by Theresa Bruno, an artist who is new to Sheffield. Her exhibition featured a deconstructed Argos catalogue – the last ever printed – displayed as individual items on the gallery floor. An overwhelming soundscape featuring item descriptions, serial numbers and advertising language was played through several large speakers, and Bruno also held a listening event for visitors to engage more directly with this element of the work. Having had a positive experience with Yorkshire Artspace, Bruno later applied for a studio and joined our artist pool.

Platform 22 was the last instalment in our partnership with Site Gallery and Bloc Projects, as the Freelands Artist Programme funding period ends in December 2023. The five-year project has been an excellent opportunity for artists in Sheffield and we are proud to have been a part of it.

OTHER ACTIVITY

We use our gallery spaces to support other activity through external hires or offering space in-kind. This helps to activate our spaces and makes our organisation more accessible to people from beyond our membership and their networks.



We were able to accommodate an exhibition request by two alumni of Clay Space, providing free gallery space and staff support. *Common Disquiet* was an exhibition of ceramic sculptures by Cristina Cerulli and Fernanda Cortes, teasing out common themes in their work relating to tension and unrest.

We hosted two exhibitions by students from Sheffield Hallam University. BA Photography students presented *Digitalis* at Exchange Place in April 2022, while MA/MFA Jewellery & Metalwork showed *Transformation* at Persistence Works in January 2023.

Other hires included a pop-up shop by independent retailer Endless Love Creative, the annual Fronteer Open, and *Where Have the Rivers Gone?*, a live music concert and exhibition co-created by researchers from the University of Sheffield alongside artists Alison Churchill and Cathy Spiers.

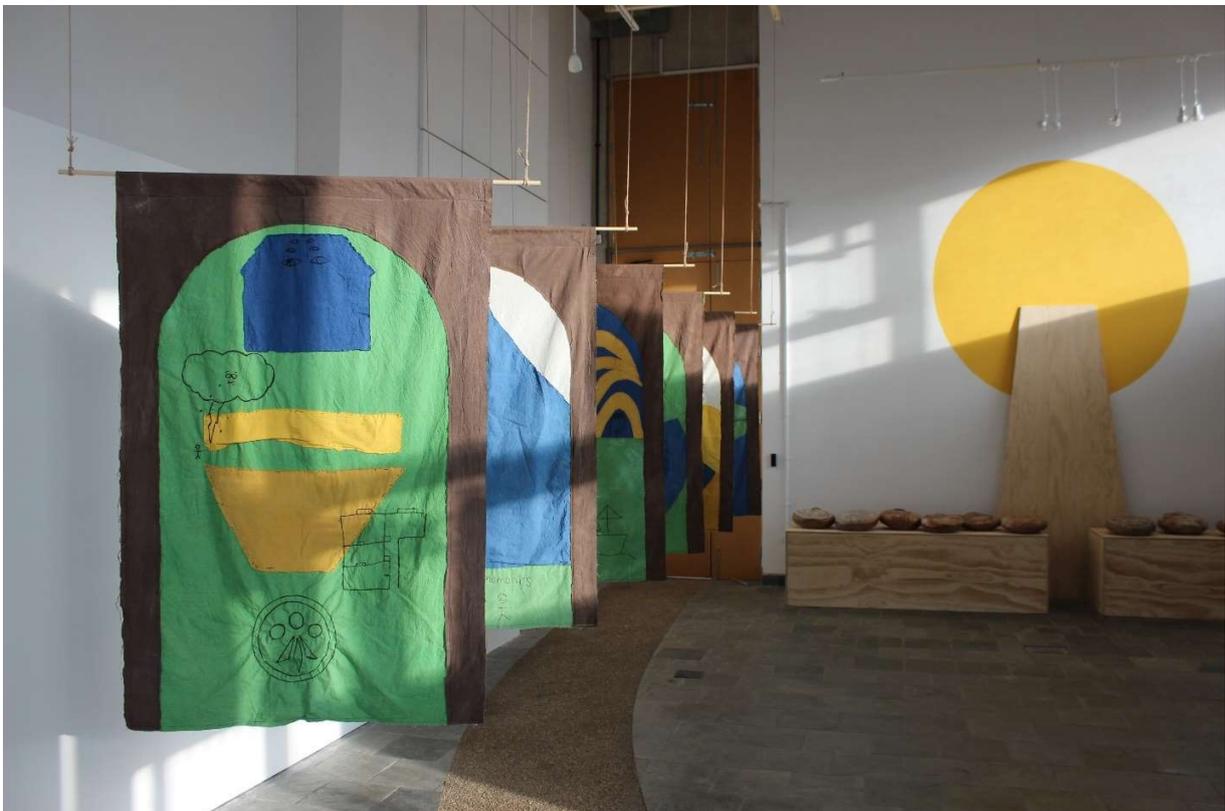


ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

LANDMARK

This year saw the culmination of the LandMark project delivered by artists Emilie Taylor and Christopher Jarratt with eleven people recovering from substance misuse. They hosted a celebration event in June and an exhibition in September.

Over a year of engagement sessions, participants crafted clay pilgrim flasks (fired in our Kiln Yard) and cloth pennant flags. Both featured designs that told stories of individual recovery. The flags were displayed at a celebration event hosted in the Kiln Yard, where participants enjoyed a meal together and drank from their flasks. The event featured talks, live music and a recital by Sheffield's first poet laureate Otis Mensah.



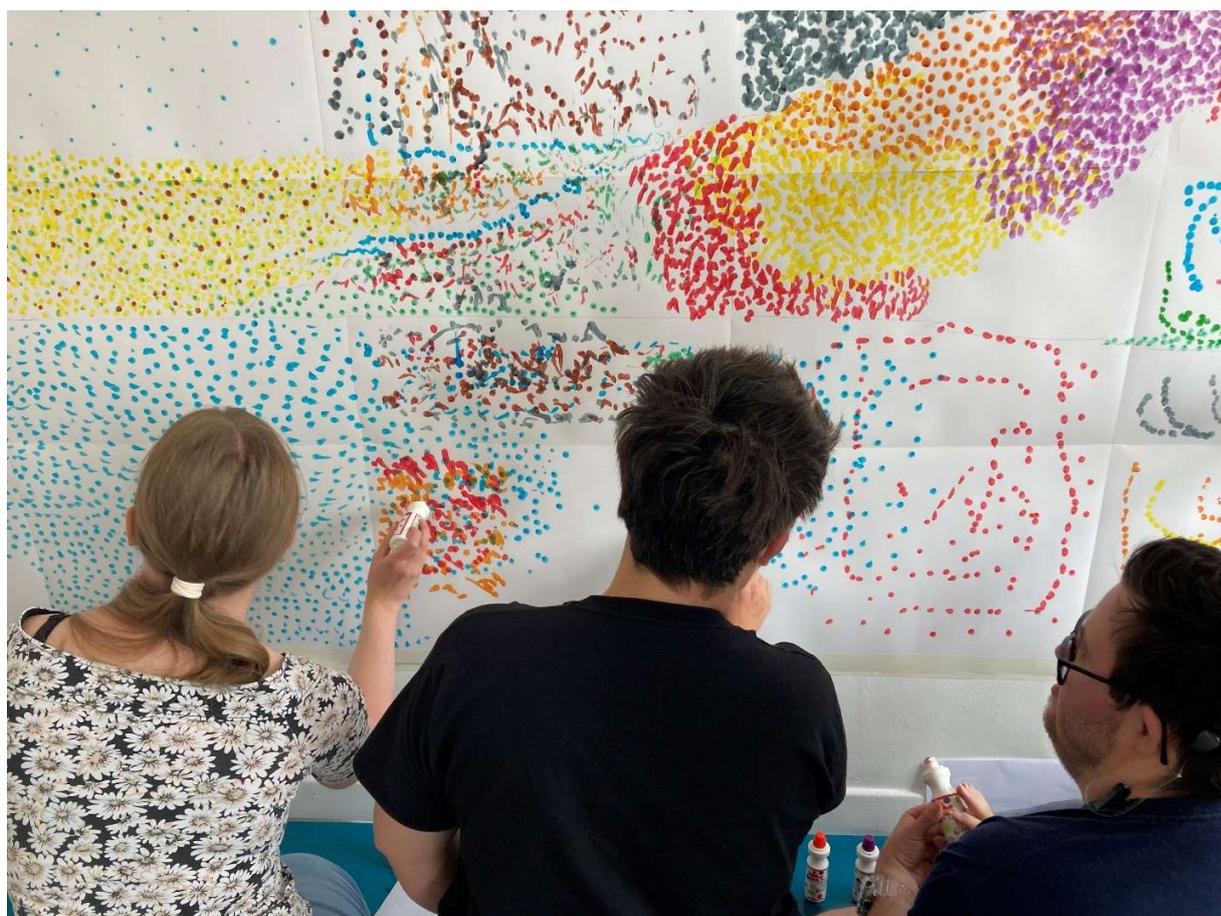
For National Recovery Month, the flasks and pennants were displayed alongside two films in an exhibition that attracted over 500 visitors. A programme of talks and film screenings accompanied the exhibition, as well as a city-wide takeover that saw 12 billboards used to display printed versions of the pennant banners.

The participants in LandMark were service users of local charity Project 6. Since LandMark ended, we have been able to continue working with Project 6: by providing workshop space for their Freshstart sessions supporting women whose children are in government care.

ARTWORKS TAKEOVER

In July, we hosted a takeover of Exchange Place Studios by local not-for-profit ArtWorks South Yorkshire, who provide creative opportunity for adults with learning disabilities.

For the duration of the takeover, ArtWorks were based in our gallery and participated in a range of art workshops with artists Becca Brown, Mandy Gamsu, Christopher Jarratt and Richard Johnson. The artists shared their techniques with the group who were then able to apply it to their own ideas or respond to it in other unique ways.



The work they produced contributed to an ever-growing display in the gallery. At the end of the project, we hosted two open days where family, friends and the general public were invited to come and see what had been produced over the month.

Through engagement projects such as this we seek to make our venue more accessible to those who may feel excluded from cultural spaces and provide a platform for voices that are underrepresented in the arts. We will continue this model in future years, making new partnerships and connections.

NHS STAFF ART CLUB

We continued our partnership with Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on their Staff Art Club project which offers NHS staff opportunities to access free creative workshops.



These are designed to provide relief from work-related stress and anxiety, learn new making skills and find enjoyment in creative expression. This year, Yorkshire Artspace member Fiona McAlear delivered four days of metalwork and jewellery workshop sessions. Participants made botanical-inspired rings and pendants, and the sessions were complemented by a tour of Sheffield Museums' metalwork collection.

With several years of online sessions due to Covid risks and restrictions, we were pleased that these sessions were able to take place in person.

OPEN STUDIOS

Our annual Open Studios is our largest event of the year and provides the public with a chance to explore our studios, meet our artists, and buy their artwork.



Our annual Open Studios event continues to grow more popular each year, with almost 2,700 people attending this year's event – our busiest yet by a considerable margin. Our participating members reported total sales exceeding £38,000 (though not all members chose to report their sales), and 60% felt the event was better than previous years.

For the second year, we held our 'Autumn Almanac' exhibition of work made by our members. We again approached local curator Sean Williams to select and hang the work, which received positive feedback. We also held a party for members during Open Studios, providing them an opportunity to socialise and reflect on the event while enjoying a drink around the fire in our Kiln Yard.

We commissioned Carousel Print Studio to deliver family-friendly printmaking taster sessions at Exchange Place Studios, which were free to participate in.



ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

CRITS

Our crit group for visual artists, *Feedback*, provides an opportunity to share developing work with a critically engaged audience. 12 artists presented their work across 7 sessions, with an average group size of 10 artists per session.



When presenting work at a crit, artists are encouraged not to give away any details. The format enables presenting artists to listen in on conversations stimulated by their work and observe how people engage with it. This can provide valuable feedback at a developmental stage, influencing how work is finished or presented.

It has also helped artists to determine that their work is ready for public exhibition, with several of this year's microgrant recipients having first shown their work in the crit sessions.

Crucially, the crit sessions enable artists to network and form long-lasting professional relationships with each other. In support of this, we committed to hosting more crits at Persistence Works to help artists mix between buildings.

MICROGRANTS

Our microgrant offer helps artists to realise their independent projects by providing free space and staff support, meeting with them regularly to monitor their progress and offer advice.



Our microgrant offer helps artists to realise their independent projects by providing free space and staff support, meeting with them regularly to monitor their progress and offer advice. We lead on marketing and promotion, with in-house production printed flyers and digital content, writing exhibition texts, and liaising with press contacts. We also offer practical support with curation and preparing for events such as previews or public talks.

In addition, each artist receives a microgrant towards project costs; this might fund the time of a curator to help them design the exhibition, a workshop facilitator to deliver activity around the exhibition or a review from a writer. Artists who received these microgrants in 2022/23 are Andy Jackson, Richard Johnson, Manish Harijan, Alison J Carr, and Cath Acons. (see Gallery Spaces).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our staff offer free 121 sessions for all members, providing informal opportunities for professional development. In addition to this, we increase access to arts opportunities by circulating relevant information and call-outs via email.



We help our members to reach new audiences and generate income by providing bursaries for them to appear at a number of local fairs and selling events. Among these are Sheffield Ceramics Festival, Art In The Gardens, and Goldsmiths North. In the future, we are interested in looking further afield than Sheffield and have applied successfully for a stall at Manchester Art Fair in November 2023.

In January, we collaborated with Cockpit Arts to deliver a business support session for our members. The half-day in person workshop gave members the space to envision where they would like their business to be in 5 years, and provided a range of methods to strategically improve the way they work towards those goals. 15 members benefitted from this free opportunity and as a result of the positive feedback we are now planning to develop an informal accountability partner scheme. The scheme will help members to support one another in applying their learning.

A group of people in a meeting, with a woman smiling in the foreground. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The text is centered in a white box.

FUNDRAISING & PARTNERSHIPS

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

We are adopting a full cost recovery model for fundraising activity and exploring income generating opportunities that also improve our physical environment and support our Cause.

In 2022/23 we received the first and second of three grant instalments of the National Lottery project grant of £65,662 to deliver our new gas kiln facility at Persistence Works, to pilot its operations and deliver an associated engagement project. We submitted our final report on the work in May 2023.

We also received grant income from applications submitted in 2021/22, comprising a Digital Innovation Grant, a Goldsmiths Centre small grant and a grant from the J G Graves Charitable Trust, all in support of our plans for redeveloping the Silver Space. This income has funded important improvement work for the facility.

We successfully applied to the Radcliffe Trust for funds supporting access to the Silver Space for up to two makers, enabling us to offer one year of rent-free access to the facility and additional targeted support in the form of technical mentoring and masterclasses. Funded Fellows of the space will join us in October 2023.

In November 2022 we were awarded a Low Carbon grant from SCC City Futures. This included an environmental audit of our Persistence Works building and provided 50% of the costs of installing LED lighting into common areas of the building.

Also in November, we learnt we have been successful following the lengthy process to remain in the Arts Council England's National Portfolio. Our unrestricted grant of £73,192 per year for three years remains at a standstill. We are grateful for the continuing support of ACE while acknowledging that this delivers less activity than has been possible in previous funding rounds.

In March 2023 we were grateful to receive £2500 from Sheffield City Trust, to fund part of our 2023 Exchange Place takeover with Attercliffe-based community group The Creator's Hub in Attercliffe.

Yorkshire Artspace is a charity and adheres to the Code of Fundraising Practice. There is no dedicated fundraising role at Yorkshire Artspace, with a staff team of just 5 people (4.3 FTE). We are proud of the increase in fundraising activity and particularly of the success rate, which for the year stands at 100%.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are essential to the way we work.

Silver Space: Silver Space continues to benefit from our partnerships of long-standing with Sheffield Assay Office and Sheffield Museums, which allow us to provide valuable commission and exhibition opportunities for our makers. We are forming new partnerships to support its redevelopment, with the Goldsmiths Centre and the Contemporary British Silversmiths.

Sheffield Studio Forum: We've initiated an informal studio provider forum, which will meet up to three times a year to build interpersonal relationships between staff and organisers and to discuss opportunities, risks and challenges relative to running artist studios in the city. We will represent this sector experience during our meetings with Visual Art Sheffield, which works in support of the city's Making Our Way visual art strategy.

Sheffield Culture Consortium: As a member of Sheffield Culture Consortium, we attend up to 12 meetings each year to bring additional resources for culture into the city and encourage collaboration within the sector. Emerging from the pandemic, development has focused on the Consortium's purpose, widening membership of the meeting, and discussing plans to generate change in our sector. Work began on an EDI action plan for Consortium activities. Since its inception, the Consortium has raised more than £2m for additional arts and culture activity, resulting in a cultural offer that is stronger, more vibrant, and better connected across the city.

Cultural Industries Quarter: We have strong links with other creative and cultural organisations in the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ), with whom we successfully applied to the city's Cultural Recovery Fund to collaboratively deliver a festival between July-August 2022, led by Site Gallery. Four weekenders celebrated urban development, young producers, public art and sustainability. We were involved in steering and commissioning programming. The legacy includes three new public murals in the CIQ, including by artists Jo Peel and Zoe Genders, both based at Persistence Works, and closer working relationships between businesses in the quarter. Our intention was to raise the profile of the CIQ and grow its economic and creative impact. We were also delighted to continue to work alongside Site Gallery and Bloc Projects to host the Platform programme interim exhibitions across our three venues (see Gallery Space).

Castlegate Partnership: We continue to participate in the Castlegate Partnership in driving regeneration in the area, now backed by a successful £20m Levelling Up bid. This involves regular meetings between Sheffield City Council and stakeholders to help steer the ongoing developments of the area. As the area regenerates, these conversations increasingly allow us to connect and collaborate with other arts and cultural organisations of varying scales. In addition to our participation in the annual Castlegate Festival, our microgrant programme supporting artists' projects creates high-quality exhibitions in the area.



FINANCES

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position: The charity received income of £485,775 (2022: £429,845) in the year. Expenditure totalled £550,071 (2022: 521,130) which includes depreciation of fixed assets of £133,918. The Statement of Financial Activities reports a deficit for the year of £64,296 (2022: deficit of £91,285) after taking account of depreciation.

Principal funding sources:

1. Earned rental income from the studios covers the running costs and the management of the premises and any surplus is invested in building a free reserve to ensure the sustainability of the charity for the long-term, see our reserves policy below.
2. We are very grateful for the relative stability that has been offered to our organisation by the Arts Council England through their National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funding that supports our business plan, which includes our public programme offer and artist development programme. This income has been critical to our financial sustainability.

The year 2022/23 was an extension year of the existing Arts Council funding agreement, while beginning a process of greater alignment with the new Let's Create strategy. The last quarter of the year 2021/22 was focused on developing our application to remain in the National Portfolio new funding round. This was awarded in November 2022, and will support activities from April 2023 - March 2026.

We recognise the need to increase the balance of unrestricted funds to comply with our reserve policy and develop staff capacity to generate new income streams, so the burden of ensuring our long-term sustainability doesn't rest so heavily with earned income from rent.

Investment powers: The charity's investment powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association and allow the trustees to invest funds not immediately required for the furtherance of its objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit.

Reserves policy: The Trustees have reviewed the reserves target and have agreed that £250,000 of free reserves remains appropriate, with an intended target date of March 2028. This target level was calculated with reference to the risks that the charity faces after considering mitigations that are in place. Of the total target, £150,000 relates to operational risks and the balance relates to the need to build up reserves to fund one-off and urgent property costs so that the properties remain of high quality and are attractive to artists and makers in the region.

The Trustees are of the view that the charity's activities most likely to trigger unforeseen costs are its properties, which are held on a long leasehold basis. The trustees are aware of the need to build up reserves. In July 2022 staff undertook a review of the properties to determine the potential expenditure required over the next ten years. The outcome indicates that necessary urgent works amount to £176,000, of which £76,000

could be found from budgeted maintenance costs over that period, actively managed by staff team. It is intended that the property 10 year plan will be reviewed over the coming months. Beyond the £250,000 operational reserve target the Trustees are of the view that a further investment will be required in the buildings, and therefore continue to source restricted grant funding for capital projects.

There are no major planned changes in our financial model, yet we recognise the need to increase our unrestricted funds to comply with our reserve policy. For 2022/23 we applied a rent increase of 2% at the outset of the year which was followed by a further increase in October 2022 based on proposals for charging back a greater proportion of our rising utility costs. The new rates for 2023/24 are being applied from July 2023. It is our aspiration to increase charges sustainably and we remain confident of our excellent value.

We continue to source grant funding to support improvements to our buildings and deliver programme. We are actively testing and reviewing new income-generating activity, through art sales and venue hire.

Most of our income is generated through studio rent, making loss of rental income a key risk. We have however had close to 100% occupancy at both buildings since 2018. With a healthy mailing list, each studio advertised attracts several expressions of interest. Our studios are seen as the best in the region and we are confident we can maintain 100% occupancy and increase our charges.

As at 31 March 2023, the level of free reserves increased by £38,243 to £76,271 (2022: £38,028). This was a positive result and greater than the forecast position when budget was set. Designated funds total £31,659, which includes £7,513 representing the net book value of fixed assets that are used for operational purposes and therefore cannot be spent. Restricted funds total £3,591,564 (2022: £3,693,587) which are represented by fixed assets being Exchange Place Studios, Persistence Works, the kilns, furniture and equipment, plus accrued restricted income.

BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	12	3,583,952	3,681,339
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	13	14,867	38,094
Cash at bank and in hand		206,671	137,138
		221,538	175,232
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	14	(105,596)	(92,381)
		115,942	82,851
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		115,942	82,851
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
		3,699,894	3,764,190
NET ASSETS			
		3,699,894	3,764,190
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds	17	107,930	70,603
Restricted funds		3,591,964	3,693,587
		3,699,894	3,764,190
TOTAL FUNDS			
		3,699,894	3,764,190

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended)

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME & ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and grants	3	-	-	-	2,145
Charitable activities (Support and promotion of arts and crafts)	4	413,054	72,721	485,775	427,700
TOTAL		413,054	72,721	485,775	429,845
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities (Support and promotion of arts and crafts)	5	375,727	174,344	550,071	521,130
NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE)		37,327	(101,623)	(64,296)	(91,285)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		70,603	3,693,587	3,764,190	3,855,475
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		107,930	3,591,964	3,699,894	3,764,190