­­Neuk Perspectives

Artist Statements

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# Abbie Gladwin

*Colourful Scottish Highlands*, (2024) is made up of various layers of monoprints and piecing them together to create a collage landscape. Abbie used watercolour paint on top and let the water bleed into the ink of the monoprints, which was experimental and a risk that she took as it was a challenge to try and control what the water would do to the image. She loves using purples, greens, blues and browns in this piece as she feels they capture the colours you see when in the forests, lochs and mountains of Scotland. As well as the colours, she likes using collage and monoprints as you get a great texture from the paper and mark making which she feel adds to the rugged/natural landscapes you tend to see in Scotland.

Abbie Gladwin is a mixed media artist from Edinburgh, Scotland. She studied Art and Design at college, specialising in Sculpture. Collage, monoprinting, and ink drawing are some of her primary skills. Abbie is inspired by nature, animals, landscapes, life drawing, and pop culture. She can also be found hanging out with her cat Isla in the garden.

Instagram: @uniquelyabbie   
Etsy: www.etsy.com/uk/shop/UniquelyAbbie

Email: uniquelyabbie@gmail.com

# Aileen Paterson

*The Wishing Tree* was created as part of a series of acrylic and mixed media paintings during lockdown in 2020, a way to express some of the artist’s hopes and wishes for the world and her desire to reconnect with nature during a time when this was not possible.

Aileen Paterson is a multi-passionate autistic creative with a love of words and nature. She enjoys finding ways to combine words and art, nature writing, illustrated poetry, and experimenting with different art forms. She lives by and is drawn to the water, and is somewhat obsessed with trees.

Instagram: @aileenpatersonart

# Ailsa Turner-Gibb

Ailsa is a painter living in the Scottish Borders. This piece is about climate anxiety.

www.ailsaturnergibb.co.uk

# AinsleyPhilips

Ainsley (artist) and Phillips (musician) explore the place where art and music play together, through improvisation, iteration, and hyper-layering. This work uses the simple joy of connecting to place as its starting point as AinsleyPhillips jam together, to seek, discover, and compose flowing visual and musical patterns into a rich and textured audio-visual piece.

ainsleyphillipsprojects.com

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# Alasdair Watson

Glasgow freelance photographer and artist Alasdair Watson is self-taught and creates in analogue and digital mediums. Photography, writing, and art are his connection to communities, and his work is deeply rooted in the landscapes and languages of Glasgow and Scotland. Through the ritual of travel, connection, and creation, Alasdair seeks to tell stories of how we belong to each other and our surroundings, while also exploring ideas of imperfection, impermanence, natural forces, and the experience of never fitting in.

This diptych is part of Alasdair’s ongoing solo project, depicting Scotland’s future landscape littered with remnants of lost and forgotten communities, rendered through analogue photography, poetry, and sculpture.

***Lyoag*** is a Scots language euphemism for a fearsome oncoming tide, one you'd rather not think about, but which will drown you at the bottom of the sea if you don't change your heading. Much like the phrase "climate change".

www.alasdair.photography

Email - [Ally@Alasdair.photography](mailto:Ally@Alasdair.photography)

Instagram - @Alasdair\_Watson

# Audrey O'Brien

Audrey O’Brien is a socially-engaged artist who works across photography, collage and printmaking. She was born in Ireland and based in Glasgow where she studied Fine Art Photography (2000). A background of employment in social care and obtaining MPhil in Art and Design in Organisational Context (2003) informed her work in Arts and Health. Audrey’s research-led work sheds light on unheard stories, and her process of creating a supportive collaborative space enables communities to feel safe and inspired, as Audrey fosters a culture of trust, solidarity and creativity.

Recent projects include: Woven in Renfrewshire a project reflecting on care/work post-pandemic;

Remembering Together Co-Creating Community Covid Memorial, phase 1 artist 2022 – 2023.

www.sea-projects.org.uk

Carol Clark

The colours and forms in Carol Clark’s wearable work are evocative of the North Sea coasts where she’s from. Carol’s process is craft based recalling the pragmatic domestic craftsmen and knitters that came before us leaving behind traditions and beautiful necessities.

“Froth” is an animated, wearable, bead woven piece created for Neuk Perspectives.

Instagram: @carol\_clark\_jewellery

# Dani Kerr

Dani Kerr is a multi-disciplinary artist based in Glasgow. Dani’s work features themes of the macabre contrasted with modern aesthetics, inspired by everything from pop culture to mythology. Currently, they manage DemonicEros on Etsy, selling their art and other handmade products. Dani hopes their work can help build community, inviting others to view their work on both a visual and human level.

Their piece, Daydreaming from reality, is a bold black and white Lino print inspired by the concept of escapism. Taking heavy inspiration from Scottish folklore and the many magical tales told throughout Scotland’s history.

demoniceros.etsy.com

Instagram: @DemonicEros

# Dominika Jackowska

Dominika Jackowska is an Edinburgh-based animator known for seamlessly blending animation, technology, and nature. Her diverse portfolio includes animated projections, short films, digital theatre performances, and workshops. With expertise in stop-motion, hand-drawn, and After Effects animation, Dominika has worked on motion design, branding, and animations for theatre, film, and even a BAFTA Award-winning animated series. Inspired by her innovative approach of merging animation with real-world locations, she is currently conducting research in the field of interactive outdoor animation.

www.dominikajackowska.com

# Emma Justice

*“I think there’s something about being a young woman that feels very murderous” – Florence Welch*

My work is a study of the intricacies of being a woman. I focus on the complexities and contradictions of the everyday, pushing the sweet into the vein of sickly. My multi-disciplinary approach ranges from dipping stuffed animals in pink plaster to traditional painting techniques and sculpture, all of which is knitted together through the use of wool.

As a woman, I’ve had a long and complicated relationship with the colour pink. For many years I rejected anything associated with femininity, including pink. As I’ve developed a healthier relationship with my femininity, I also mourn the years I lost while resenting the societal pressures that made me reject that part of my identity.

I see my work as a physical representation of that anger and its reconciliation, bringing an element of violence to the perceived innocence of femininity. You will be confronted by the idea that two things can be true at the same time.

Instagram: @emmx.27

# Emma Whigham

Emma is a visual artist based in the Scottish Borders. Her work involves experimenting with materials to explore recurring themes in an abstract way. She often deconstructs and reassembles material, creating work that embodies the dynamic interplay between spontaneity and intent. Exploring composition using the addition or subtraction of shapes, spaces and textures, she aims to introduce order, pulling the parts together to create cohesion within each piece.

Printmaking’s rich potential for investigating these themes has recently occupied her work which, at its heart, employs a tactile approach with which she seeks to understand the materials she uses and their capabilities.

Instagram: @emma.whigham

Ewan Arthur

Initially inspired by subjective experiences of various parasomnias and anomalous phenomena, Ewan Arthurs work is, in general, an exploration into varying states of consciousness.

*“Call Home, Walls of Glass”* is an externalisation of imagery generated by the artist's subconscious mind during sleep.

Instagram: @ewanarthur

# Francis Macleod

Francis Macleod is a mixed media artist, originally from the Isle of Bute, he now resides in East Kilbride. He is influenced by popular culture, contemporary politics and current affairs.

“Park at Baird Hill” is part of a series of works which are a long-term response to settling into a new environment. Having lived mostly in island and coastal environments in the first part of his life, he reflects on the emotional and psychological relationship he has with the landscape and geography of the New Town of East Kilbride.

www.francismacleod.com

Instagram: @francisnmacleod

# Gaelle Chassery

Gaelle Chassery is a multi-passionate artist based in Kilmartin Glen. She enjoys creating art inspired by nature, basing her creations on her love of natural patterns, the healing friendliness of nature, and the ordinary miracles of seasonal changes.

Gaelle works with an endless variety of materials and her practice spans many forms and media. She also writes abundantly about the benefits of slowing down while taking the time to notice our inner and outer environment.

*Undyed Shades of Scotland* is a sensory book without words. Made entirely of pure Scottish wool, the book tells the stories of the landscapes of Scotland and the beautiful colours of wool they produce naturally (without dye). It is an interactive and tactile sculpture that plays with the three senses of sight, touch and smell. As a completely silent book, it is very soothing to handle.  
  
www.gaellechassery.com

Instagram: @gaellechassery\_soothing\_art

# Hanna Lappalainen

Hanna Lappalainen is a performer and filmmaker based in Edinburgh. With a background both in dance and film, their practice is led by the dialogue between the two art forms. Over the years they’ve worked both behind and in front of the camera, taught screendance workshops, and had their work screened at film festivals internationally. Most recently focusing on participatory art practice, they’re looking to bring the medium into working with communities.

Their exhibition piece Red is a solo dance film about what we remember and what we forget. It was filmed in the Lammermuirs a few years back, and in true neurospicy fashion, finished much later.

hannalala.neocities.org

# Indie Flynn

Indie (she/they) is a neurodivergent non-binary socially engaged artist who believes that it is the process of creativity rather than the final outcome that participants gain the most growth from.

They have worked for over 15 years with neurodivergent young people and young people from challenging or vulnerable backgrounds, delivering animation and creative workshops where their participants are encouraged to take the lead and find their creative voice.

Her work is influenced by the way they see the world and their eclectic taste in film, tv, books and visual stimuli around them. Which is mostly observing their daughters Coraline and Merida and the way they interact with the world around them.

Indie sees herself primarily as a storyteller, and although they primarily do this through the medium of traditional animation they also love to express their creativity through sculpture, illustration and any other medium that they feel lends itself to visual storytelling.

*Snot Boy* is a Tradigitally created animation , a cautionary tale about what can happen if we pick our nose too much.

meriline.art

Instagram: @indieflynn

# Iona Zawinski

Iona Zawinski is a multi-media autistic artist with Scottish, Welsh, and Polish heritage. She creates experimental music, featuring in the bands Pocket Monica and Skoosh. While much of her musical output deals with emotions of the past or present moment, her sculptural creations are representations of her visions of the future. Being able to imagine and create soft future worlds has been an incredibly effective part of the artist’s healing process.

Description of piece:

Sleepy wee creature snoozes in paper cocoon.

A physical manifestation of safety, made as a reaction to experiences of intense fear and overwhelm as an autistic person and survivor.

www.pocketmonica.com

# Jane Francis

Jane Francis is a visual artist based in Fife. Her practice includes painting with watercolour and ink, drawing, artist’s books and writing. Her paintings are characterised by a playful, experimental pursuit of exquisite sensuality. They are expressions of bodily and emotional experiences combined with an awareness and inter-connectedness with the more-than-human world. Her inspirations include readings of autistic theory and poetics, music, and the art and ontologies of indigenous peoples.

Jane has experience of being lead artist on several participatory art projects. In 2022-23 she was awarded a grant from the Create:Inclusion fund at Creative Scotland for a 15 month period of research and practice development.

janefrancis.net  
Instagram: @janefrancispainting

Jané Mackenzie

Jané works with multimedia collages, installations, curation and moving images to explore communication and belonging. Her work is informed by, and examines, disability, being deaf, neurodiversity and from this the idea of total communication. Understanding that communication is multidimensional – gesture, sound, movement and so on. She also started E numbers, a neuroqueer collective which put on event and hosts a monthly radio show.

E land [Jané’s corruption of the Gaelic word for island, Eilean], is the inkling / imagining of a place for Deaf and neuroqueer experience of sound. Audio by Lovecat. The visuals and audio have contextual and sensory origins, less about a final outcome and more like a conversation. Engaging with Deaf culture is relatively recent despite Jané’s and her mother’s lineage being deaf/hard of hearing. Neuroqueer, a term borne out of neurodivergent discourse, is a practice Jané has come to through her creative community. It is to explore and expose limitations of dominant ideas of sound, language and modes of communication to give way to more freeing forms of expression. It is a repositioning herself to the imagining of E land, a place where language and communication are an ever-evolving means of expression and connection to ourselves, others and the land.

www.janee.co.uk

Instagram: @jane\_emac

# Jessie Growden

Jessie Growden is an artist and writer based in the Scottish Borders. She grew up between a garden centre and a forest, and finds herself back in the forest more often than not. She studied design for textiles at Heriot-Watt University, and found experimental film thanks to Alchemy Film & Arts, who are based in Hawick. She regularly produces new video and drawing work, sharing it through social media, her website, and funding platforms Kickstarter and Patreon.Her work explores place, landscape and personal experiences through playful and also structural approaches to recording and presenting images. Focusing on objects, both the sentimental and the throwaway, and the history and lives of things and places, She looks to create work both autobiographical and performative. While exploring the local and personal through a feminist lens, she aims to preserve these objects and places, while questioning what they really say to and about us. Jessie works mainly in video, and also use sculpture, drawing and writing in her practice.

About *Urm*:

Communication is hard. Communing with nature is simple, but a bit awkward when trees keep getting cut down all over the place. Creatures made out of plastic climb through the clear fell and try to find their words, long-loved friends with epic origin stories of their own; remaining relics from the age of childhood cry into an echoey room. Accents and inflections and pitches attach to their fluffy mouthpieces, personalities stitched together in China and in the edit.

jgrowden.com

# Johanna Koen

Johanna (she/they) is a multimedia artist, community gardener and forager based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Her artwork ranges from media productions such as short films, soundscapes and interviews to visual art pieces such as sculptures, illustrations and wildcraft. Woven into each piece is a sense of awe for the natural world and a radical re-imagining of our relationships with nature and one another. Her background in horticulture, mycology and botany come together in her work as a socially engaged artist. Through foraging and wildcrafting workshops, Johanna aims to cultivate intuitive connection to the natural world as well as build community resilience.

foraging-gardener.com  
Instagram: @foraging.gardener

# Julia Darrouy

Julia is an artist & maker from Toulouse, south of France, now based in Glasgow. They often make playful work that explores alternative ways to exist in the world, inspired by their own experience. Their work is diverse and spreads from illustration, storytelling, stop motion, costume design, puppetry and performance. They value imagination and experimentation and hope to always learn new skills and crafts.

A framed watercolour illustration of 'Ray', who is the main character of the short story 'Fuelled by Love' by the same artist. Ray touches a butterfly while sitting in the middle of the forest. Ray and the world meet. The piece is inspired by stained glass windows.

Instagram: @the.sungoddess

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# Juliana Capes

Juliana Capes (b.1974 England) lives and works in Edinburgh, Scotland. She is a multidisciplinary visual artist with a diverse practise working across sculptural installation, film and moving image, description, participation and performance.

Her artworks often use the vocabulary of natural phenomena to ask questions about the processes of feeling, seeing and believing. Her work is frequently built in public space and is intrinsically defined by the way that people engage with it. Durational installations that set up situations for community participation and conceptual consideration of the fabric of everyday life. She also makes poetic descriptive moving image work that considers access as an instigating factor, influenced by her experiences of working as a visual describer in Scottish galleries and museums.

She has recently shown work at Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, Edinburgh Art Festival, Alchemy Film Festival, Centre for Contemporary Art in Glasgow and Campleline Gallery in Scotland. Recent commissions have come from LUX Scotland, BBC Scotland and NHS Lothian. She is a studio holder at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop and is on the board of the Scottish Contemporary Art Network.

Juliana Capes is showing “Wind Kills” a new body of work consisting of handmade found object and ceramic sculptures. These broken feathery harbingers are open breasted, open hearted, ceramics merged with lost and found objects creating sculptures that act as fragile symbols of small, unavoidable tragedies.

www.julianacapes.co.uk

# Kate Young

Kate Young is a composer and scenographer. As a synaesthesic artist, she draws upon her experience of the sonic and visual-spatial being in a symbiotic relationship. As a scenographer/designer of experiences and environments, her research is centred around how to externalise the inner world of a composer who 'sees' sonic forms as material objects that can be interfered with by the spectator, with the goal of them composing a sound through touch. In particular, how can we generate curiosity through material that might invite one to explore new ways of interacting more creatively with the world?

These pieces are extracted from Kate's larger graduation work 'Synaesthetic Journeys' from her MA Scenography, Utrecht, June 2023. You are invited to touch, lie on, befriend these blobs.

kateyoungmusic.com

# Kiara-Isabella MacKenzie

‘A piece of cloth is only half-experienced unless it is handled.’

Peter Collingwood

Kiara-Isabella is a multidisciplinary artist who works primarily with textiles.

Kiara–Isabella’s work in textiles focuses on the relationships between people and fabric. Textile, one of the most important inventions in the history of humanity, providing sustenance, warmth, and shelter, textile has allowed our species to expand across the globe. Although our textiles may have changed dramatically throughout history, we continue to rely on it, maybe even more than we ever have.

As an autistic artist, she also aims to create work which is multi-sensory, which rebels against the ocularcentric ideals of the gallery, and those of our society which seems to prioritise visual stimuli above all else. She aims to create spaces where the viewer can *feel* the work, both physically and emotionally, not just visually.

‘Tactile Walls’

In her latest works, ‘*Tactile Walls’,* she has been focussing on large wall-based installations, creating environments which encase the viewer. In creating these engulfing spaces, she hopes they allow the viewer to become fully aware of the work and themselves within it, exploring the varied textures through both sight and touch.

kiaisamacart.com

Email - kia.isa.mac.art@gmail.com

Instagram - @kia.isa.mac.art

# Libby Lilburn

This is Libby.

Their art is based on their experiences as a neurodivergent individual living in a society made for the perceived “normal” experiences of neurotypicals.

Through themes revolving around their disabilities, autism, SID (sensory integration dysfunction), High functioning anxiety, depression, Fibromyalgia, and suspected ADHD,

They aim to start conversations & to break & stigmas around nuances on invisible & dynamic disabilities.

A lot of their work features self-portraiture, & the feathery/furry members of their self-proclaimed ‘MADHOUSE’, as they form an integral part of their identity as a person and an Autistic artist.

‘Therapy Brothers’ (2023) was an artwork inspired by Libby’s own Cats, Marley & Bubba.

Libby's cats have become almost like ‘miniature therapists' with her disabilities, especially during evening Flare-ups. This artwork captures a snippet of those vital everyday moments, & the emotional support her pets provide. Showing that these bonds help Libby, & many other disabled/neurodivergent people cope in day-to-day life.

libbylilburn.weebly.com

# Lorraine Hamilton

Glasgow artist Lorraine Hamilton makes sculptural work that explores the relationship between her neurodivergence and how it impacts sensory experience and emotion. Consistently using a select group of sensual materials: sticky, dripping goo, clay that molds at your fingertips, smoke that carries whispers of scent, and water that mirrors your reflection. Each element holds a hidden story, ready to be revealed through playful interaction from the viewer and artist. Hamilton is a recent graduate from the Master of Letters at Glasgow School of Art and winner of the John Byrne Award 2023.

www.lorrainehamilton.co.uk

# Louise K Fraser

Louise is a neurodivergent teaching artist who has worked across Scotland graduating from her MFA at Edinburgh College of Art. She devises and delivers imaginative and original CPD and creates resources for galleries and councils. Co-production and education form the backbone of her practices and in recent works has been exploring how we see the worth of artist educators. In her WASPS studios in Leith, Edinburgh She pursues her multidisciplinary diverse visual practice from printing and painting to drawing and sculpture.

She was recently awarded a Marsh Award for Excellence in Visual Arts Engagement. Has an ongoing residency with Southampton University Life Sciences Department. Collaborated with furniture designer Billy Angel to create an accessible studio cart and is currently working on participatory projects with Fruitmarket gallery.

www.louise-k-fraser.com

# Lynn McIntosh

Lynn McIntosh is a self-taught artist & writer from the Isle of Islay. She is based in Edinburgh and is drawn to all forms of creative expression, from urban sketching to paper collage to poetry & music composition.

Her exhibition piece, Paradise: Lost & Found, is a spoken word poetry piece set to music and was inspired by her neurodivergent experience of navigating the world.

linktr.ee/lynnmcintoshdesign

# Marzena Ostromecka

As a glass artist based in Edinburgh, Marzena aspires to create playful and interactive works. Her practice goes beyond glass, embracing mixed media and found objects to enrich the experience. Valuing a quirky sense of humour, fun, and human connection, she advocates for diversity, sustainability, and continuous learning. By tapping into child-like curiosity, she communicates ideas through a universally playful lens.

Her latest series of five sculptures, inspired by feline senses, serves as a tribute and celebration of her beloved cats, reflecting her identity as a self-proclaimed crazy cat lady.

www.cooljazzcats.com

Instagram: @m.ostromecka

# M Devenny

M Devenny is Masters Graduate of GSA working towards a PhD and becoming a full-time passionate artist practitioner, researcher and facilitator.

*A practice in hijacking the norm, blurring the lines between what is considered the normative and abnormal,*

*whilst edging on parodying of the typical expectations, and exploring the public and social engagement.*

*Expressions and impressions of the curated self and the strive to find meaning and validation, and the desire to be*

*seen, which does not always translate simply.*

*With an elaborated focus on the concept, utilizing the handmade, the analogue and the repurposed as a playful rejection of the minimal clean- cut.*

*With subject matters generally representing the fears and vulnerabilities we face;*

*As a disabled adult I am terrified of being infantilised, feeling like a large baby being so sensitive. It’s turning my fears into (com)passions, to combat the Catholic guilt pressed on to my living ancestors. I can be a big baby and still a magical genderless angelic being.*

**Power in care and absurdity.**

Panel depicting wings attached to a headless doll [a cherub of sorts ]( an open mouth with plastic teeth instead of a body ) these are also painted in pink. Not for you is scraped through the paint showing the see through nature of the plastic panel.

Instagram: @megandevenny

# Michael Hutchinson

Michael Hutchinson is a visual artist and writer living in southern Scotland. Michael’s work, both written and visual, explores the contradictions of being almost a part of society. A long-term interest in letter forms, coupled with the use of spray paint, gives his visual work a graphic feel. The addition of other material - string, wire - moves the work from the purely two-dimensional whilst also inhibiting the images.

His exhibition piece, Black Tie Event, turns an every-day object into a symbol of unease, and references (perhaps cryptically?) the 2-D work of Joseph Beuys.

Instagram: @hutchinsonmichael2

# Molly Kent

Based in Edinburgh, Scotland, Molly is a graduate of Edinburgh College of Art, receiving a Master of Arts with First Class Honours.

Molly Kent is a textile artist who represents mental and physical health notions through mediums such as rug tufting and weaving. They portray contemporary existence regarding social media and internet living and how this affects our perception of self.

*Nightmares* portrays the artist's emotions in regards to their nightmares, due to their CPTSD. Trapped within the confines of their bed, surrounding by swirling flames as smoke billows out above them.

mollyhkent.com

# Neslihan Tepehan

"Surround" explores the boundaries between inside and outside, container and contained, disrupting these through contrasts in form and texture. It engages with Brutalism in clay, responding to regimes of extraction and authoritarianism and exploring what shape collective refusal and resistance might take.

Neslihan is a designer and artist based in Edinburgh. Their practice is informed by bodily movements, social movements, practices of care and reciprocity. Currently, Neslihan focus on how we are affected by the current socio-political environments while aiming to generate conditions to collectively imagine emergent and speculative alternatives.

www.aporetic-design.com

# Peter Johnstone

Peter Johnstone is an artist originally from West Lothian living in Glasgow. He is constantly trying new art forms but his main output is music and video art

"Your Ass is mine" is a short film around the theme of Closure and the art of moving on. It follows two young people five years after a break-up as they reunite to swap plaster casts of each other’s bums.

Instagram: @peterjohnstonemusic

# Rachel Nelson (RAN)

Rachel Nelson is a Scottish designer, artist, and writer who studied ancient art at University and is drawn to many forms of creative expression.

**Dandelion** is an atypical motivational poster which encourages the viewer to make space for themselves, even when others might see them as a nuisance. A slightly tongue-in-cheek reminder that everyone is entitled to be part of this world.

Instagram: @rachandesign

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# Rachel Stanley

Rachel Stanley (b.1996, Epsom, based in Edinburgh) is a painter whose practice speculates on the possibilities between abstraction and figuration. Taking reference from natural forms and the human body, the paintings perform a shifting of perspectives - looking across, over, under and through - in order to obscure and undo the landscape. Bringing sentience to otherwise static forms, the works exist in a grey ‘between' area, suggesting double meanings and requiring multiple visits.

Rachel studied at Goldsmiths and Edinburgh College of Art. She has exhibited at S1 Gallery, Sheffield; Cabin, Berlin; Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh; Arusha Gallery, London. She also curates shows and hosts Listening Party, a crit club in Edinburgh.

rachelstanley.co.uk

# Sarah Barnard

Sarah Barnard is a professional polar artist with a background in ocean exploration and marine biology, and has worked as a full time artist since 2015. She works in pencil, watercolours, acrylics, airbrush, inks and pastels, makes cyanotypes and dabbles in sculpture. Sarah has a passion for polar exploration, and in March 2022 took part in polar expedition training in Norway, and during October 2022 was an artist in residence on the Arctic Circle Expedition Residency in Svalbard. Sarah was the first ever artist in residence at the Shackleton Autumn School in Kildare in 2023. In January 2024 Sarah founded the Polar Artists Collective, which is currently a 50+ strong community of artists sharing and exhibiting work through online exhibitions and social media.

Cyanotype print using words from the poem 'Skansbukta, Spitzbergen' by Daryl Farmer. Photographs taken by the artist while sailing around Spitzbergen as part of the Arctic Circle Expedition residency are used to make the cyanotype.

www.barnardpolar.shop

# Sophie Demery

Sophie Demery is an artist and printmaker whose fascination with the sea became the focus of her practice whilst completing a BA Hons in Illustration at Edinburgh College of Art. Work is made of a combination of printmaking, photography, collage and digital processes.

A preoccupation with all things nautical led to projects about the flashing patterns of Scottish lighthouses, ocean currents, plastic pollution and Scottish fishing folklore. Interested in the interactions between humankind and the natural world, work usually takes the form of a print or a book. Text often features in the work and having a background in illustration she seeks to find a narrative even where there doesn’t appear to be one.

*Lighthouse* is a copper plate etching combining drawing and collage using collected materials overlaid into the soft ground to create texture.

www.sophie-demery.com

# Sylwia Kolasinska

Sylwia, Edinburgh based potter, founder of Mud Station Pottery, trailblazer and community maker. Fascinated by all the opportunities that clay delivers, simultaneously stuck with love for functionality. Woodfirer. Sometimes cosplaying as a mother.

Three katakuchi stoneware bowls, wheel-thrown and wood-fired over 4 days in an anagama kiln. Two of the bowls are lined on the inside with a golden leaf. Pottery is all about functionality and purpose in everyday life. Making these two bowls more "eye-pleasing" removed their ability to serve their purpose, perhaps moving them into the realm of art. The third one, untreated with beautifying attempts, looks humble or even rough, but it's still functional.

These three bowls serve as a metaphor for human relationships. Too often, people present a beautiful but fake facade. Most of the time, we need the second type of folks in our lives.

mudstation.co.uk

# Tom Bird

Tom Bird (they/them) is a Dundee-based writer and poet, and performer in poetry-music duo, 2 Stoned Birds.

Their spoken word poetry often delves into fantasy, neurodivergence and trans identity, with warm honesty and hope.

In 2022, they were the recipient of the Creative Non-Fiction award and over-all winner award at the SMHAF Writing Competition. In 2023, Tom won the title of East Coast Champion at the Loud Poets Slam East Coast Heat.

They are a shortlisted spoken word poet for Scottish Book Trust’s New Writers Award this year, and are working on towards their first poetry collection.

Creature That Breathes is a spoken word poetry film born out of personal experience and reflection about a sexual assault experience. Through intimate delivery and allegory, it explores the physical, psychological and emotional responses of coping mechanisms and trauma, while also discussing how the individual processes this experience and continue to live.

Instagram: @tombirdwords

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Spotify “2 Stoned Birds”

# Tzipporah Johnston

Tzipporah is a textile and mixed media artist based in Edinburgh. Her practice combines embroidery with installation and archival art. A central theme in her work is the theory of monotropism – the idea that the central characteristic of autism is the tendency to focus deeply on one thing at a time – and its potential to offer a theory of autism that doesn’t foreground distress or deficit.

The Venus Eye Trap is a soft sculpture made using stumpwork embroidery, mounted in a glass cloche. It is part of an ongoing series of works about eye contact and the artist’s discomfort with it. The eyes are at once beautiful and unsettling, mirroring the mixture of fascination and aversion she feels about eyes.

www.tzipporahjohnston.com

Instagram: @tzipporahfeiga

# Victoria Ross

Victoria Ross is a self taught Scottish artist and maker, born in Glasgow and now living and working in Linlithgow. She specialises in oil paintings that explore themes of loss, vulnerability, and human frailty, with a focus on what it means to be human.

Through pared back, expressive figure paintings that have an unfinished quality and which expose the process of painting itself, she strives to investigate her own emotional landscape and by extension, produce work that inspires a sense of connection and empathy. Her unique style and perspective evoke a sense of raw emotion and introspection, drawing the viewer in to contemplate their own humanity.

*muse 3* is part of a series of paintings entitled 'Capturing Transience', in which the artist explores her relationship to her family by working from and deconstructing a series of photographs taken on her grandparent’s wedding day.

In this piece, the focus is the flower girl. Victoria was fascinated by how she looked at the camera - appearing to be looking directly into it but actually her gaze is inward and quiet. The artist found her gaze compelling and this became the focus for the larger sense of loss and fragility that the photographs provoked.

www.victoriaross.art

Instagram/Facebook: @victoriarossartist

# William Niven

William Niven is a photographer based in Dumfries & Galloway, whose practice involves exploring the environment, specifically the surrounding natural landscape of Southwest Scotland. William uses photography to express his Autism, ADHD, and CVI, to share how he sees, interacts, and thinks about the world often built for the neurotypical mind. Through experimentation with artificial light and multiple exposures, his work explores the boundaries and limitations of the still image. He is interested in the tactile nature of the photograph and how this can activate memories of a moment in time and the sensory pleasures it induces. William’s practice explores the connections between the body and space, the natural world, and the effects of humanity upon the natural world.

The Imperceivable World is a short 10-minute film that presents us with a different way of sensing the world through the neurodivergent mind. Inspired by how experimental filmmaking creates a multi-sensory experience that alters the visual senses, I break the rules of exposure, form, and sharpness that photography adheres to. I use experimental filmmaking to abstract elements of the forest, moss, leaves, rivers, that creates colourful indecipherable shapes, and reveal this hidden world. The Imperceivable World reveals the hidden communicative barrier between us and nature as we try to sensorially identify the language of the forest to anything that is tangible or familiar.

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# Yasmin Ali / Print + Press

Yasmin Ali runs ‘Print + Press’, an emerging inclusive art + education platform for all ages and abilities. She has a diverse education and working life, including qualifications as an urban designer and early years practitioner and playworker, and finds ways to combine these skills in interesting and novel formats. She seeks to democratise design and art for all, as a practising artist and educator. Since the pandemic, she has realigned her goals and values to dedicate much of her work to be public-facing and support people of all ages with disabilities. She has upcoming teaching commissions with people of all ages with health conditions. Her work on communication for neurodiversity was recently noted for its insights, and she is currently researching learning disabilities to be able to further enhance her knowledge base, to inform her practice. Current funded projects in progress for publication and exhibition, both written and visual, are based around issues of diversity and intersectionality. Her developing interdisciplinary practice is focussing on intergenerational and anti-racism approaches, with allyship and advocacy allowing for positive framing of these important perspectives.

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