

LEITH SCHOOL OF ART RESILIENCE FUND

Foundation Course student 2020/21

A **unique art community nestled in the heart of Leith**, Edinburgh, Leith School of Art was founded in 1988 by the late Lottie and Mark Cheverton with a vision of excellence in art teaching, an inclusive caring ethos, and a strong sense of community at its heart.

The same artistic, charitable and spiritual aims continue to inspire Leith School of Art today. It remains central to our vision to widen access to a distinctive, life-enhancing range of art education opportunities for all, regardless of background and financial means.

Over the decades, **Leith School of Art has made a profound impact on the lives of thousands of artists across the country**. It continues to be a vibrant artistic community, where both traditional and contemporary practice is encouraged and nurtured. Leith School of Art is cherished as a place which fosters a personalised learning experience within a collective atmosphere of creativity and mutual support.

However, over the past year Leith School of Art has faced its most difficult challenge yet. With the effect of Covid-19 on education for young people and the visual arts, the pandemic has put Leith School of Art under significant strain and is a threat to our future.

That is why we are turning to our whole community and wider supporters of the Scottish visual arts, to ask you to **help us to stay resilient and emerge thriving from this pandemic**.

“The tutors have so much passion for what they do. Being around that passion was invigorating.” Ali Hill, Printmaking Graduate supported by the Assisted Places Scheme

Leeka's Story, Schools Outreach & Foundation Course Graduate

Leeka moved to Edinburgh with her family when she was 11 years old, after growing up in The Gambia with her grandmother. In the first few years, Leeka found it difficult settling into high school – it was so different to where she came from – and she attended several schools before arriving at Craigmoynton Community High. This is where Leeka met art teacher Emma Boyd and began to develop a passion for art. Emma, who had studied at Leith School of Art herself, saw great promise in Leeka and recommended that she join the Schools Outreach programme.

During her year with the outreach project, Leeka showed exceptional talent, so she applied for LSA's Foundation Course and was accepted with a fully funded place through the Assisted Places Scheme generously supported by LSA's donors. Leeka blossomed on the Foundation Course where she discovered a flair for fashion and sculpture. She built up a high quality portfolio and applied for a degree in Fashion Design at Glasgow School of Art (GSA). Leeka secured her place at GSA and has been loving it ever since. She says that it is all thanks to LSA that she got into GSA.



Leeka Ndure, Schools Outreach & Foundation Course Graduate

Gabriel's Story, Community Class Student

Gabriel has Asperger syndrome, bipolar disorder and chronic pain. The combination makes it impossible to predict what his health might be on any given day. Not long ago, Gabriel reached a life crisis point and art became an integral part of his recovery. However, he struggled to find the right support needed to nurture his talent. Other art classes were helpful but lacked proper tuition, leaving Gabriel feeling uninspired and directionless.

Through Leith School of Art's Community Classes, Gabriel has found the right balance between emotional support and artistic progression. On a technical level, he has enjoyed experimenting with different materials and techniques, which has pushed him out of his comfort zone and taken his art to places he never thought possible. Most importantly, he has discovered a sense of community and support: "Leith School of Art is like a family. The benefit of the Community Classes goes beyond art. It is a holistic recovery of the person. It is empowering. It is helping people to get on the way to standing on their own two feet. I feel more confident to deal with the world in general and as an artist. Now I have a sense of direction in life. That's a lot, that's everything."



Gabriel Gonzalez, Community Class Student

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE SCHOOL:

Your support will enable Leith School of Art to emerge from this pandemic in a position of resilience and equipped to continue delivering our unique art education to our community of students, especially those who need us most. With your help we can look forward to the future, to developing our position within the visual arts culture of Scotland, and to continuing to invest in people through art education.

Our target for the Resilience Fund is £100,000:

£25 could provide welfare support to one student who is experiencing personal challenges during their studies.

£50 could go towards providing art materials for high school students taking part on our Schools Outreach programme.

£200 could go towards ensuring our unique building and studio spaces continue to adapt to the needs of our students.

£500 could support 1 person from our local community experiencing health, social or economic barriers to attend our Community Classes for one year.

All donations raised will be unrestricted. These vital funds will go towards the School's greatest areas of need, strengthen resilience and support development. This will enable the School to adapt and thrive now, and in the coming years.

WAYS TO SUPPORT:

Donate via our website:
www.donate.leithschoolofart.co.uk

Donate via bank transfer: Royal Bank of Scotland
Sort Code: 83-24-18 Account: 00193630

Donate by cheque, please make payable to Leith School of Art and post to: Leith School of Art, 25 North Junction Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6HW

To **become a Patron** through monthly donation, please see our donation page www.donate.leithschoolofart.co.uk or call us on 0131 554 5761

If you would like to speak further about your gift, Camille, our Fundraising and Development Co-ordinator would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact her at Camille.Hamilton-Villemur@LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Any level of donation towards our Resilience Fund will be hugely appreciated.

"Leith School of Art is a very supportive place. It really boosted my self-esteem. All of the support I received from my tutors meant that I applied and was accepted for a Master's at Edinburgh College of Art."
– Kathleen McVey, Painting Student supported by the Assisted Places Scheme

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