



Welcome from Principal, NICK DEVISON

"Welcome back to a new academic year and this edition of Spectrum. The autumn term is off to a flying start and it has been lovely to see the studios busy with students and staff - both familiar and new - filled with a sense of excitement and potential for the year ahead. For me, this energy, positivity and friendship stands as the mark of Leith School of Art and it is this characteristic that enabled the School to support practical and effective teaching and learning during the challenging periods of the last academic year.

In this edition of Spectrum we have lots of news to share, including highlights from the previous year and a look forward to this year's initiatives.

I would also like to take this moment to thank all of you who have supported the Resilience Fund this year. Without you, the secondary effects of the pandemic would have hit Leith School of Art hard and we wouldn't have been able to open our doors with such confidence this academic year. We recognise that the pandemic-related challenges are not yet behind us but we now look forward to a positive and creative year ahead!"

The impact of your support

Throughout this edition, we will shine a light on what our supporters have made possible for Leith School of Art (LSA). This includes the following:

- o Our Community Classes for local members of Leith and Edinburgh living on low incomes
- o Our Schools Outreach Programme for local high school pupils
- o Bursaries for our students in need of financial support
- o The Graduate Residency Programme for emerging artists
- o Enabling LSA to continue teaching our courses and running our operations in the face of the challenges caused by the pandemic

Highlights from 2020/21

FOUNDATION COURSE

The students demonstrated remarkable dedication during their year of study, and we are proud of all that they managed to achieve through periods of online learning and lockdown restrictions. Of the students who applied for undergraduate degrees following their year at LSA, all of them

Image: Kirsty Nicol, 'Sizing', Painting Course

secured places at the universities of their choice, including Glasgow School of Art (GSA), Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (DJCAD), Edinburgh College of Art, and many more.

At the End of Year Exhibition, Foundation student David Symmons won the Design Prize for his illustration of Albert Camus book covers. With the portfolio he developed on the course, he fulfilled his dream of securing a place on the Communication Design course at GSA. Nicky Riding won the Best in Show Prize for the cyanotype sails she created of stories she collected of the Foundation students’ experiences of lockdown. She created this using cyanotype printing, which is a photographic printing process that produces a cyan-blue print. Nicky has now progressed onto DJCAD.

END OF YEAR EXHIBITION 2021

For the first time in two years we were excited to hold our physical End of Year Exhibition. This took place across four gallery spaces connected by the Water of Leith – our North Junction Street Campus, Custom House at the Shore of Leith, St James’ Campus on Leith Links and Patriothall Studios in Stockbridge. There was a special atmosphere at the shows, where students, staff and visitors celebrated the return to presenting and engaging with artwork in person.

CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE

The Contemporary Art Practice show that took place at Patriothall Studios and was exceptional. A highlight was Susie Rose Dalton’s work

[pictured right] which investigated the transformative impact of social isolation, something that Susie experienced during the period when social restrictions were introduced. Throughout this time alone in her flat, Susie only had the sun for physical company. Using bisque-fired porcelain tiles placed throughout her living space and chemicals which turn blue in sunlight, the artist created a permanent record of this companionship. The number of tiles (459) reflected the number of days between the introduction of the restrictions until the beginning of the exhibition. Susie won the Wasps Award for her work.

PAINTING COURSE

On the Painting Course we celebrated the work of Fiona Burrows. Fiona had been a primary school teacher and head of department for 10 years when she decided, with the encouragement from her LSA Evening Class and Summer School tutors, to pursue a career as an artist. Fiona, who never studied for any qualifications in art at school, admits that she would openly tell people that she wasn’t arty. However, after taking up evening classes in art at LSA, as a way to relax outside her work, it soon became clear that Fiona was very talented. After two years of evening classes, Fiona secured a place on the Painting Course and in her commitment to the development of her practise, pursued the course for a second year – which was made possible with one of the bursaries funded by LSA’s Patrons, Friends and donors.

Throughout her course Fiona developed her style in contemporary painting using acrylics, oils, ink and bleach, drawing and stitch and exploring plein-air painting. Her work has explored safe spaces

for women, feminist themes and recently centred on her relationship to her home town of Clydebank and its history and sense of ‘working class pride’ by using imagery from archive photos. Fiona achieved great success at the End of Year Exhibition, displaying a prolific number of works, most of which she sold. We are pleased to share that Fiona was offered a place on the Painting degree at Gray’s Art School, Aberdeen, which she began this autumn.

SHORT COURSES

We were delighted to launch two new short courses, Digital Photography and Contemporary Leith Landscapes. Contemporary

Leith Landscapes had an exciting year, with students eager to engage in this unique course where they were led outdoors to take advantage the diverse local environment of Leith and given space to develop their in-situ drawing and painting skills, and their use of a wide range of media and low-fi printing methods. The course received high praise from the students, with one of them sharing that it was “one of the best educational experiences I’ve had”.

We are proud to say that our Community Classes ran throughout the last academic year, with the course moving online during the second lockdown. Our students worked exceptionally well in these circumstances, with many of them

sharing how they appreciated the opportunity to practice art from home and that the classes helped them through such a difficult period. We sent every student a pack of art materials, to support them with their learning from home. One student shared that the classes “certainly got me through the winter”.

Our Community Classes enable members of the local community living on low incomes to receive high quality art education in a nurturing and inclusive environment. This work was made possible with the support of our Patrons, our community of individual supporters, the Micah Fund from Ps & Gs Church, Nancie Massey Charitable Trust, Leith Benevolent Association and The D’Oyly Carte Charitable Trust.

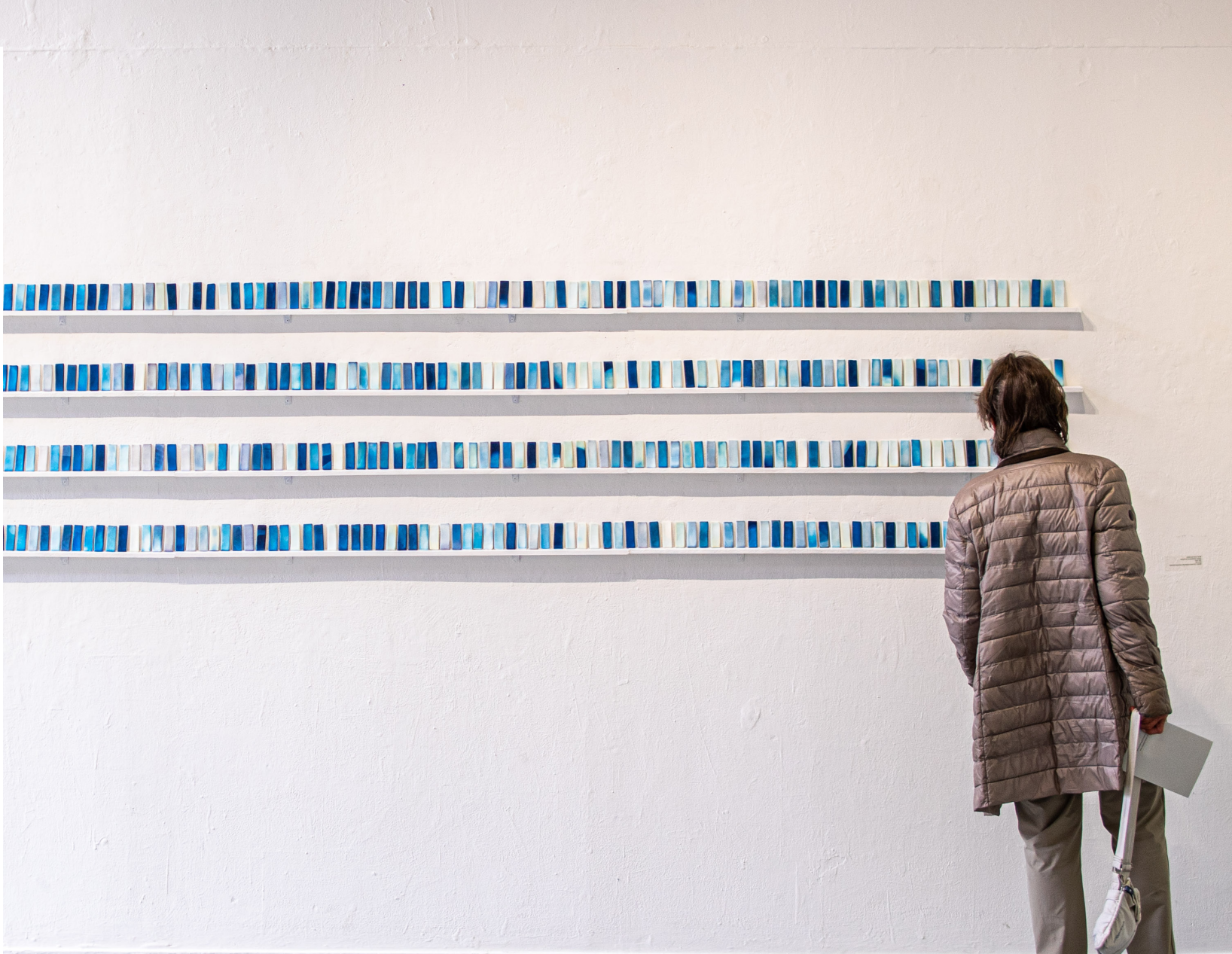


Image Above: Susie Rose Dalton, ‘Flare’, Contemporary Art Practice
Image Left: End of Year Exhibition, North Junction Street

Looking Ahead

We are thrilled to announce that we are joined this year by three new Graduate Residents: Molly Kent, Jack Whitelock and Madeleine Wood, who have all recently completed their undergraduate degrees with First Class Honours. Molly Kent’s work has recently been highlighted in the Hidden Door festival and she brings to the Graduate programme an exciting new take on contemporary fine art textiles. Jack Whitelock makes large scale figurative painting which playfully interrogates the nature of the medium and Madeline Wood explores folkloric imagery through an extended practice which embraces drawing 3D and installation work. This programme has been made possible thanks to Baillie Gifford, Fieldstead & Co., and the Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Foundation.

This year we secured funding from the Scottish Government’s Community and Third Sector Resilience Programme enabling us to take up another studio space at Custom House on the Shore of Leith to for our Community Classes and Schools Outreach Programme.

Our Schools Outreach Programme started this October, signalling the important return for pupils to extra-curricular activities. Tutor Brigid Collins is delighted to welcome ten pupils to the course, all of whom have been put forward by their art tutors as pupils who would benefit from additional art tuition so that they can reach their potential. We are joined by pupils from Leith Academy, Holy Rood High School, Portobello High School and the Royal High School.



Image: Sophia Annes ‘Man in Nature’, Foundation Course

New Staff at Leith School of Art

Since our last edition of Spectrum, we would like to share news of the new members of staff who have joined us.



Camille Hamilton-Villemur Fundraising and Development Co-ordinator

Camille joined in September 2020 to lead the fundraising and development work for LSA. Camille brings experience of major donor fundraising and building relationships with philanthropists, notably from her previous work for the British Red Cross and Imperial College London. Alongside her work, Camille is also studying for a Masters in Counselling at the University of Edinburgh.

Camille looks forward to getting to know LSA’s Patrons, Friends and community of supporters. If you would like to speak with her, please don’t hesitate to contact her at Camille.Hamilton-Villemur@LeithSchoolofArt.co.uk.



Andrew MacKenzie Painting Course Tutor

Andrew joined LSA in September 2020 as a Tutor on the Painting Course. He is an artist with a national and international profile and was previously the President of Visual Arts Scotland. His work explores entangled relationships between architecture, the built environment, and our perceptions of nature, currently with a focus on thresholds and edges. He was recently commissioned by Marchmont House to create a large scale site-specific sculpture, called Woodland Structure, which is made from steel and cast bronze.

Matthew Wilson Printmaking Course Tutor

Matthew began at LSA in September 2020 as the Course Leader for our Year-Long Printmaking Course. He has previously worked as a tutor and technician at Edinburgh Printmakers, East London Printmakers, and Dundee Contemporary Arts. Matthew is a practising artist working across printmaking, sculpture, text, performance, and sound.



Marissa Stoffer Tutor Support & Tutor

Marissa is a Technician, Tutor Support, and Weekend Workshop Tutor at LSA. Marissa’s workshops, ‘Foraging for Colour’, are designed to connect people to the stories of native plants, their colours, and practical uses. Her practice centres on art and ecology which draws close connections to arts and crafts as well as science, history, myth, and folklore.

Will Carey Technician

Will graduated from Edinburgh College of Art with a MA in Fine Art in 2016 and has since gained experience working with artists on a broad range of exhibition and sculptural commissions with Edinburgh Art Festival and Jupiter Artland Sculpture Park in West Lothian. Will is a practising artist and continually develops his own work across a range of digital, photographic and sculptural media.



Changing Places: Celebrating 20 Years at Leith School of Art

Foundation Course tutor, Jenny Martin is currently exhibiting at our North Junction Street Campus. The exhibition runs until 17 December 2021. Jenny has worked at Leith School of Art for over twenty years and this show explores her relationship with the area of Leith, how it has changed and how it offers quirky and surprising subjects for her paintings, drawing and prints.

"I have grown to love the area deeply and become acquainted with all sorts of corners and aspects, so when I was offered the chance to have a show to celebrate my 20 years at the School, I knew exactly what I would make work about: Leith."

The exhibition is open Monday to Friday from 9:30am - 4:30pm. All welcome!



Image: Jenny Martin, 'Leith Junction', Pastel Drawing

RESILIENCE FUND

We are extremely grateful for all of the support you have given to the Resilience Fund this year. We have raised an outstanding £77,375 thanks to your generosity. These funds have been critical during a time when our students, classes and community activities have been hit by the pandemic. Your support provided us with the financial relief to ensure that LSA could run all of its activities throughout the last year and enter positively into this new academic year.

We are now aiming to reach the £100,000 goal before the end of the year, which will be essential for enabling LSA to stay resilient and keep providing our full offering to students in the face of the lasting financial impacts of the pandemic.

www.leithschoolofart.co.uk/support-us/resilience-fund

Image Right: Summer School student



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