

Welcome from Principal, **NICK DEVISON**

Here at LSA we support the potential for personal growth and positive change that an engagement with the visual arts can stimulate.

We returned to our studios this year following the great success of our summer exhibitions, which offered our most ambitious programme to date. Work on show this year spanned across four Leith venues, and could not have been more exciting. Our exhibition programme showcased our Short Courses, held at St James Campus; Year-long courses under the roof of our Norwegian Seaman's Church at our North Junction Street Campus; and our Contemporary Art Practice students and Graduate Residence artists' exhibition in the Grade 'A' listed Custom House Gallery overlooking the water of Leith.

Teaching on courses for the new academic year is now very much underway with a tremendous atmosphere in our studios and high student numbers on all courses. It is always so exciting at this time of year for us to welcome back friends of the School and to see lots of new faces

joining our creative community. The increased interest in our courses speaks to me of the importance of creative engagement in our lives, particularly after the challenges of recent years.

Leith School of Art strongly believes in the power and benefits of an active creative practice under expert tutorial supervision, something for which we are renowned.

Each year we offer a theme which forms the starting point for our work and teaching and provides a touchstone for creative thinking. This year our theme is 'Mapping', which for me is particularly apt as a way of describing how, through creative practice, we as artists can navigate our way through the literal and metaphorical opportunities and challenges which open up to us through creative endeavour. For me this creative wayfaring is already very much in evidence as I witness the vibrant work emerging from our studios again this year.

As you may know, we will be saying a sad farewell to St James Campus

in September 2024. We continue to pursue suitable accommodation as a replacement to this site over the next few months. St James is a hard act to follow but we hope to have some promising news before the New Year, so please watch this space for announcements!

Finally I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to you for your continued support of Leith School of Art in our mission to provide excellence in art education. Your help enables us to offer the LSA Schools Programme and Bursaries for individuals in our community who otherwise would not be able to access the benefits of art education.

I hope that you will be able to join us for some exciting events, including our exhibitions programme, artist talks and our End of Year Exhibition. I look forward welcoming you to the School again soon.

With warm wishes,



Image: Painting Course work - Nicola Sukatorn

FOUNDATION COURSE

Over the previous two academic years, our Foundation Course has been tremendously successful, with full capacity and 100% of students wishing to progress to university being offered places.

Leesa French assumed the position of Foundation Course Leader in January 2023, having been a tutor on the course since 2005. During her career at LSA, Leesa initiated the Contemporary Art Practice Course in 2013 and served as Course Leader until 2020. Leesa's art draws on the nature of material, discarded objects and the natural materials of landscape and human occupation that carry memories of use, often marked by repetition. Her work is inspired by locations in rural Australia, the Southern Peloponnese of Greece, and the city of Edinburgh

Dominic McIvor also joined the Foundation Course teaching team in April 2023. Dominic has previously worked as a Technician, and progressing to Studio Assistant and Tutor roles since joining LSA in 2014. Alongside teaching, his practice is rooted in drawing, primarily from observation with a keen interest in manipulating materials and surfaces.



LSA SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Launched as our "Schools Outreach Programme" in 2015 in partnership with one school, we now work with four Secondary Schools: Holyrood High School, Leith Academy, Portobello High School, and The Royal High School.

Talented pupils who are motivated by art and who meet our eligibility criteria are encouraged by their art teachers to apply for the programme. The criteria is chiefly based on socio-economic circumstances but also extends to challenges experienced due to health, mental health, being care experienced or being a young carer.

LSA has the pleasure of being joined by 12 pupils from our partner schools on Friday afternoons for extra-curricular art classes over 22 weeks. We love to see their creative practice, skills and confidence flourish during this time.

We are grateful to our funders, the Walter Scott Giving Group and the Edinburgh Decorative & Fine Arts Society for enabling us to continue to offer this important programme. We also appreciate the generosity of major donors, Angus and Lesley Franklin, for supporting the costs of two full bursaries for those who wish to progress from the Schools Programme to our Foundation Course. This year we are pleased to welcome one student on to the Foundation Course from our Schools Programme.

We have decided to rename the programme after careful consideration. While the course remains unchanged, we feel the new title "Leith School of Art Schools Programme" is a stronger, more positive name.



MENTORING COURSE

Last year we launched our Artist's Mentoring Course and it has been a great success with the year culminating in two very well received exhibitions at the beginning of July. The course has already increased from 15 to 21 artists enrolled in the new academic year. All our LSA Mentors are very much looking forward to welcoming our new cohort of Artist Mentees.

"My meetings with my mentor greatly exceeded my expectations. I have looked at my work very differently, had so much encouragement, really useful ideas and always came away feeling very positive. I am really happy to be returning this autumn and with my same tutor." - Artist's Mentoring Course student

Image Top: Foundation Course tutor Dominic McIvor and students
Image Left: Mentoring Course work - Susanna Hastilow
Image Right: Graduate Resident work - Marie-Chantal Hamrock

GRADUATE RESIDENCY

Our Graduate Residency Programme has continued to thrive, thanks to funding from Baillie Gifford, Wilhelmina Barnes-Graham Trust and, more recently, the Bridge Awards and Fieldstead & Co. Now in its eighth year, this programme continues to be a career launching opportunity for graduate artists, with exclusive and tailor made investment for each artist throughout the year.

Last year three new graduates, Marie-Chantal Hamrock, Pallavi Devkota and Joe Beveridge; took up residency in the beautiful studios at Custom House. Their residency culminated in a successful End of Year Exhibition in June at Custom House.

LSA is very proud of the work produced by our graduates over the years, and the careers they have gone on to after their residency. This year, Pallavi was selected for the Artists Residency at George Watson's College. Marie-Chantal has gone on to perform her new work in Glasgow and London, having exhibited an excellent performative piece for her final show. Joe is currently situated in Outer Spaces studios in the Gyle Business Park, Edinburgh, and continues work started at LSA with the view to enrol in the research based Creative Practices Programme at the University of the Highlands and Islands.



CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATION COURSE

Harriet Hobday joined LSA as Course Leader for the Children's Book Illustration Course, which started in 2022/23, having previously taught Weekend Workshops and Summer Schools with us.

This is an exciting course, which provides students with a platform to develop their own children's book and gain professional skills in this field. The course covers the whole process – from an initial idea leading to the creation of stylistically related images, and finally the production of a full draft of a children's book by the end of the course.

Harriet is a successful Children's Book illustrator, with various titles from 'Time for Supper' to 'Nature's Toybox' published by Puffin and Condé Nast. Her latest book, 'Roots of Happiness', was published on October 5th by Puffin. Written by Susie Dent, the lexicographer, author and TV personality. The Book is about positive words and their etymology stories.



CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICE

CAP 2022/23 produced a vibrant and varied exhibition, held at Custom House Gallery for the first time.

One artist of the group, Durhana, was recognised for his work with the 'Outstanding Work Prize', for a short film "Without Dreams And Hope We Are, Truly Nothing" which critically reflects upon the artist's healthcare experiences following the Covid-19 vaccine. The prize recognises a piece of work of outstanding quality which takes creative risks, as well as taking into account challenging circumstances or barriers the individual artist may have had to overcome in order to realise this work.

Artist Janet Morris was also recognised for her delicate, sculptural work, receiving the 'Outstanding Work for Contemporary Art Practice Prize' for sustained artistic development throughout the year.



STAFF UPDATES

On behalf of all at LSA we would like to wish a fond farewell to Mary Slater, Deputy Principal (Business Support Services). Mary spent 10 years managing the business and operational functions at Leith School of Art and will be greatly missed. We wish her luck in her new role as Director of Operations and Business Development at Newbattle College.

We also wish farewell and good wishes to Camille Hamilton-Villemur, Fundraising and Development Lead, who has left LSA to devote more time to completing her postgraduate degree course.

Kevin Reid joined LSA in July as our new Head of Operations and Finance. He was previously employed within the financial services industry. Kevin has been busy getting to know the admin and teaching teams and is looking forward to working with a great team towards the future success of Leith School of Art.

Natalie Turnbull joined Leith School of Art in April 2023 as Fundraising and Development Lead. She has worked for various small and larger charities specialising in fundraising and development, including The Dollywood Foundation and the Reading Agency. She looks forward to developing relationships with LSA's wide support base to underpin the School's charitable values and aims.

Pallavi Devkota, one of our recent Graduate Residents has joined the team as Events and Exhibitions Coordinator.

Wenna Potter is a Technician and Studio Assistant and joined us in January 2022. Prior to working at LSA she was employed as a gallery technician, and as a conservation joinery apprentice. At LSA, Wenna has merged her practical skillset with the artistic sensibilities she developed through a Painting degree at Edinburgh College of Art, to assist students with the technical side of creative development. She is a practicing artist with a focus on three-dimensional media.

LEGACY GIFTS

Legacy gifts provide a significant source of income for LSA and have, over the years, made up a large proportion of our charitable reserves.

In 2022, Leith School of Art was heartened by the exceptionally generous legacy donation of £50,000 from Professor Margaret Salter. Margaret was an esteemed Scottish Developmental Psychologist and Professor at the University of Edinburgh. She was dedicated to fostering children's confidence and understanding of themselves, through leading adults to develop a greater understanding of the world from the viewpoint of a child. Throughout her career, Margaret maintained an interest in art and loved painting, latterly moving into the production of stunning, large scale and abstract digitally produced prints.

In recent weeks, we have been very grateful to receive a generous legacy donation of £25,000 from a former longstanding student of Leith School of Art, Lin Hattersley.

Legacy giving is an important component of the School's fundraising activity, which helps us to continue to support the charitable aims upon which LSA was founded and to be a beacon for widening participation in the arts.

PATRONS

Patrons play a vital role in making Leith School of Art's charitable work possible and in shaping the success and growth of the School. LSA has recently updated the Patrons Programme to make the names of giving levels more easily identifiable.

- Bronze, £100+ per annum (£9/ month by Direct Debit)
- Silver, £250+ per annum (£21/ month by Direct Debit)
- Gold, £1,000+ per annum (£83/ month by Direct Debit)
- Platinum, 2,500+ per annum (£208/ month by Direct Debit)

We hope this will enable transparency and attract new members to become LSA Patrons.

If you would like become a Patron or wish to remember Leith School of Art in your planned giving, please contact Natalie Turnbull for further information.

Image Above: Painting Course work

Image Bottom Left: Contemporary Art Practice work - Samer Abdelnour

Image Top Left: Children's Book Illustration work - Jonna Dempsey

TUTOR NEWS

Painting Course tutor, Andrew Mackenzie is participating in two shows at City Art Centre, Edinburgh:
'Scottish Landscape Awards', 4 November 2023 – 3 March 2024,
and 'Deep Rooted', 18 November 2023 - 25 February 2024

Ginny Elston is the Student Winner of this year's Jackson's Painting Prize. The winning painting relates to her PhD at Glasgow School of Art and was one of 72 award-winning entries from over 11,250.

Catherine Sargeant will be participating at WASPS Open Studios on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December - 11am- 5pm. Catherine hopes to see you there! WASPS Studios, Patriothall, Stockbridge.

Ally Gordon's first major monograph was published recently at an event at Hatchards in Piccadilly. Published in June by Anomie Publishing, the book includes over 160 paintings, drawings and documentation photographs from the last ten years of Ally's career.

Matthew Wilson had a 2 month residency at DCA Print Studio over the summer, which was funded by the Royal Scottish Academy.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for the unrestricted support that the following donors provide:

- Patrons & Friends of Leith School of Art
- The Ramsdens
- Edward Hocknell
- Jack and Janey Whitaker
- Spooner Trust
- Saints and Sinners
- Lady Anne Dunmore

We also extend our thanks to the funders of our charitable programmes:

Bursaries

- Kate Gavron
- Neil Levoir
- Nimar Charitable Trust
- The de Laszlo Foundation
- Cruden Foundation
- William Syson Foundation

Graduate Residency

- Baillie Gifford
- The Bridge Awards
- Fieldstead & Co

Schools Outreach Project

- Walter Scott Giving Group
- EDFAS

Community Classes

- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Leith Benevolent Association
- Nancie Massey Charitable Trust



Image Above: The Burden of Being, Acrylic on Paper, Ginny Elston

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Current Exhibition:

'Slow Edit' - Becky Brewis
Running until Saturday 9 December
9:30am - 4:30pm | Monday - Friday

Upcoming Exhibition:

'Graduate Resident Interim Show'
8 January - 23 March 2024
Opening: 11 January 2024 | 5 - 7pm
9:30am - 4:30pm | Monday - Friday

Patrons & Supporters Evening

Thursday 14 December 2023
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Joined by Becky Brewis and Catharine Davison

Open Days 2023/24 - 10am - 3pm

- Tuesday 28 November 2023
- Friday 26 January 2024
- Thursday 22 February 2024
- Monday 29 April 2024

Applications for Year-long Courses
2024/25 open on 1 December 2023



Image Right: End of Year Exhibition 2023



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