

Disability Creu Celf Arts Cymru

Report

April - September 2024

Disability Arts Cymru Team

Executive

Owain Gwilym; Director

Senior Lead

Cerys Knighton; Communications Manager

Sue Pound; Finance and Administration Manager (retiring Oct 2024)

Nia Cole; Finance and Administration Manager

Arts Officers

Rachel Stelmach; Training and Funding

Alan Whitfield; Visual Arts

Ny Russel-Thompson; Performing Arts and Literature

Freelance

David Cleary; Admani project

Trustees

Natasha Hirst; Chair

Jenny Joanna Bartholomew; Vice Chair

David Turner

Dominic Williams

Macsen McKay

Alun Llwyd

Jon Luxton

Chloe Clark

(Three new trustees are due to join at the AGM in October 2024)

Commissioned Work

Modulate Project

Six commissions funded by Creative Wales.

(06/06/2024)

Laura Moulding: The Inclusive Music Project

A small number of episodes for a podcast series on her experience as a Disabled musician in Wales.

Rebecca Jolliffe: TBA (Video Project)

A short film with a strong soundscape element, portraying her experiences of micro-aggressions and judgements in able-bodied spaces.

Blank Face (Josh Whyte): Modulate Song

A track combining samples of ableist comments with a sensory soundscape to communicate his perspective of being a Neurodivergent person.

Elin Angharad: Ow Ow Ow

Music containing themes of fatigue and dreams, time distortions, and the search for Disabled joy.

Ruth Potts: Song-writing Project

New material that uses own song-writing and vocal skills to move into a different musical direction from Ruth's classical and orchestral roots.

Right Keys Only: TBA

A rave anthem combining skills in song-writing and music making with the experience of being objectified as a token disabled person in a workplace scenario.

More information: <https://www.disabilityarts.cymru/modulate>

Projects

Core Projects

Cwrdd (on-going)

Wales-based disabled artists showcase and network with BSL & captioning.

DAC Commissions (Oct 2024)

Annual commissions for Wales-based disabled and deaf artists to produce work that responds to their lived experience.

DAC Zine / Publication (Feb/March 2025)

Annual publication that showcases disability arts in Wales, platforms disabled and deaf artists and shares the experiences of disabled artists and audiences with the cultural sector and general public.

Lead Projects

Creativity is Mistakes (Completed June 2024)

Artist-led project to inform the visual arts in Wales. Resultant toolkits and resources are now available to share with the sector.

Link: <https://disabilityartscymru.box.com/s/s7azxiauckfrvqyxkebwzz4108arxazi>

DAC National Disability Arts Exhibition 2025/6 (on-going)

Follow on from 'Aildanio' national exhibition 2023/4. Have confirmed Galeri, Caernarfon and Ty Pawb, Wrexham as partners. In discussion with G39, Cardiff and Glynn Vivian Swansea.

Anti-Networking (on-going)

Neurodiverse networking model with Tialt. Pending funding decision. Nye Russel-Thompson lead officer.

Partnership Projects

Amdani! (on-going)

Volunteering and access development project in Conwy. David Clearly leading on behalf of DAC as a freelancer.

NAWA (on-going)

Neurodiversity and Anti-Racism in Welsh Arts. Partnership with Hijinx and Learning Disability Wales (LDW). Removing barriers to cultural engagement for learning disabled and neurodivergent people.

Reinventing the Protagonist (on-going)

Free digital course for Deaf and/or Disabled and/or Neurodiverse writers living in Wales. Partnership with Literature Wales.

Young Artist Award (on-going)

Partnership with Worshipful livery company of Wales. A cash award for a young disabled or deaf artist in Wales.

Humans Move (on-going)

Dance initiative for DAC members.

Y Sîn (on-going)

With Boom Cymru. Opportunity for three DAC artists.

Cymru Anabl (on-going)

With Llyfrgell Cenedlaethol, funded by BFI and Heritage Lottery Fund. Exploring access to the National Library archives and disability representation.

AIR Artist in Residencies (on-going)

With TAPE and Sweet Freeze. Alan Whitfield lead officer.

Our Visual World (on-going)

Connect and flourish with Johnny Cotsen. Alan Whitfield lead officer.

Celtic Deaf Festival (August 2024)

Marketing, promotion and development advice for the annual deaf festival. Rachel Stelmach lead officer.

International Day of Disability (on-going)

Partnership with TAPE, Aubergine and Celf o Gwmpas. Rachel Stelmach lead officer.

Wild Sounds of Wales (on-going)

Owain Llwyd music composition project with multiple partners. DAC advising on access and developing disabled audiences.

PhD Studentship (on-going)

Partnership with Swansea University and Llyfrgell Cenedlaethol. A PhD studentship exploring the history of disability arts in Wales. James Cox is currently enrolling.

Membership Development

One to One Support

DAC Arts Development Officers have held **98 one to one meetings** with individual members between 1st April 2024 and 16th September 2024.

Itemised records available.

Membership Pack

A new membership pack for both individual and organisation members was produced and published in August, 2024.

Link to 2024-5 Members Pack:

<https://disabilityartscymru.box.com/s/zanzewsjxdfdk7pl16w0v6u7h3fnf0k>

Advice Surgeries

Four Benefit Surgeries (17/04/2024)

Three DAC members received personalised advice on benefits for their specific situation and arts practice.

Four Funding Surgeries (17/07/2024)

Four DAC members received personalised grant and funding advice for projects work and exhibition.

Itemised records available.

Artist Showcase

Artist of the Month

- **Donna Brazier (April)**
- **Caitlin Flood-Molyneux (May)**
- **Leila Bebb (June)**
- **Celtic Deaf Festival (July)**
- **Gareth Churchill (August)**
- **Delphi Campbell (September)**

All artists promoted heavily on DAC website, social media channels, newsletters and across AM platform and social media channels.

General news, events and stories from DAC members are promoted weekly on an on-going basis.

Events

Modulate: Commission Sharing Event (06/06/2024)

Five young disabled or deaf music, sound and video artists shared and discussed their creative work. Support: BSL & Captioning.

Cwrdd: Artist Showcase (June 2024)

Alan Whitfield lead officer.

Cwrdd: Accessible Game Design (July 2024)

Rachel Stelmach lead officer.

Cwrdd: Artist Showcase (Sept 2024)

Alan Whitfield lead officer. Conversation with Delphi Campbell.

Cwrdd: Artist Showcase (Due Oct 2024)

Nye Rusell-Thompson lead officer. Ripples project.

Fundraising

Membership Fees

£1,798.23 raised from organisations and individual artists based outside of Wales since April 2024.

Grants / Awards

Lloyds Bank Foundation

£75,000 over three years. Decision in December 2024. Applied.

Arts Council Wales

£2,330. Sharing Together Fund. Nye Russel-Thompson 'Anti Networking Project'. Decision pending. Applied.

Inspire Genius

£17,874. Nye Russel-Thompson 'Anti Networking Project'. Decision in November. Applied.

John Ellermen Foundation

£75,000 - £120,000 over three years. Application pending. Not applied.

Training

Disability Access and Inclusion Training

DAC continues to deliver training across Wales and beyond.

Digital Development

Website

New DAC website live from Summer 2024. Increased focus on Welsh language and members directory section for showcasing DAC artists.

<https://www.disabilityarts.cymru/>

Social Media

Twitter

DAC took the decision to leave Twitter in September 2024 due to the associated connections with far right violence.

Other Accounts

DAC remains active on Instagram, Facebook and AM.

Newsletters / Updates

DAC has returned to weekly newsletters sharing disability arts news and opportunities with members. Arts Officers send fortnightly updates to their art form groups.

Everything Else

Accreditation

Disability Confident Employer

This year DAC has achieved level 2 disability confident employer status.

Cultural Competence Accreditation

DAC has completed the benchmarking review stage of Diverse Cymru accreditation.

Cynnig Cymraeg

DAC has worked towards Cynnig Cymraeg accreditation in recognition of our work in the Welsh language.

Panels

- S4C Diversity Panel
- National Contemporary Art Gallery of Wales
- UNLTD stakeholder panel

Case Study 2:

1-1 Arts Officer Support

“What can I say, being a DAC member has made me feel like I have a purpose in life. It has opened opportunities that I needed and thought I would not get at my age (54). I love my work and my work is my therapy through disability. At the beginning my journey I was unsure of what I was able to do. I have had mentors such as Alan Whitfield to guide me.

I’ve been met with a lot of positive feedback with my work being shown now in several exhibitions. I never thought I would allow my work to be seen in public, but Alan has shown me confidence and has built up a trust within our working together. He is always encouraging and very honest. If I get myself all worked up and am not understanding the way the art world works, he has guided me along. It’s not easy to get people on board with work, but with DAC I have had nothing but help and I have started to regain a self-purpose in life to get my works shown.

I’m really proud of my work of late – I displayed a picture in the Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay and I’m now searching for other ways of getting exhibition space.”

- Donna Brazier

Case Study 2:

1-1 Arts Officer Support

“What can I say, being a DAC member has made me feel like I have a purpose in life. It has opened opportunities that I needed and thought I would not get at my age (54). I love my work and my work is my therapy through disability. At the beginning my journey I was unsure of what I was able to do. I have had mentors such as Alan Whitfield to guide me.

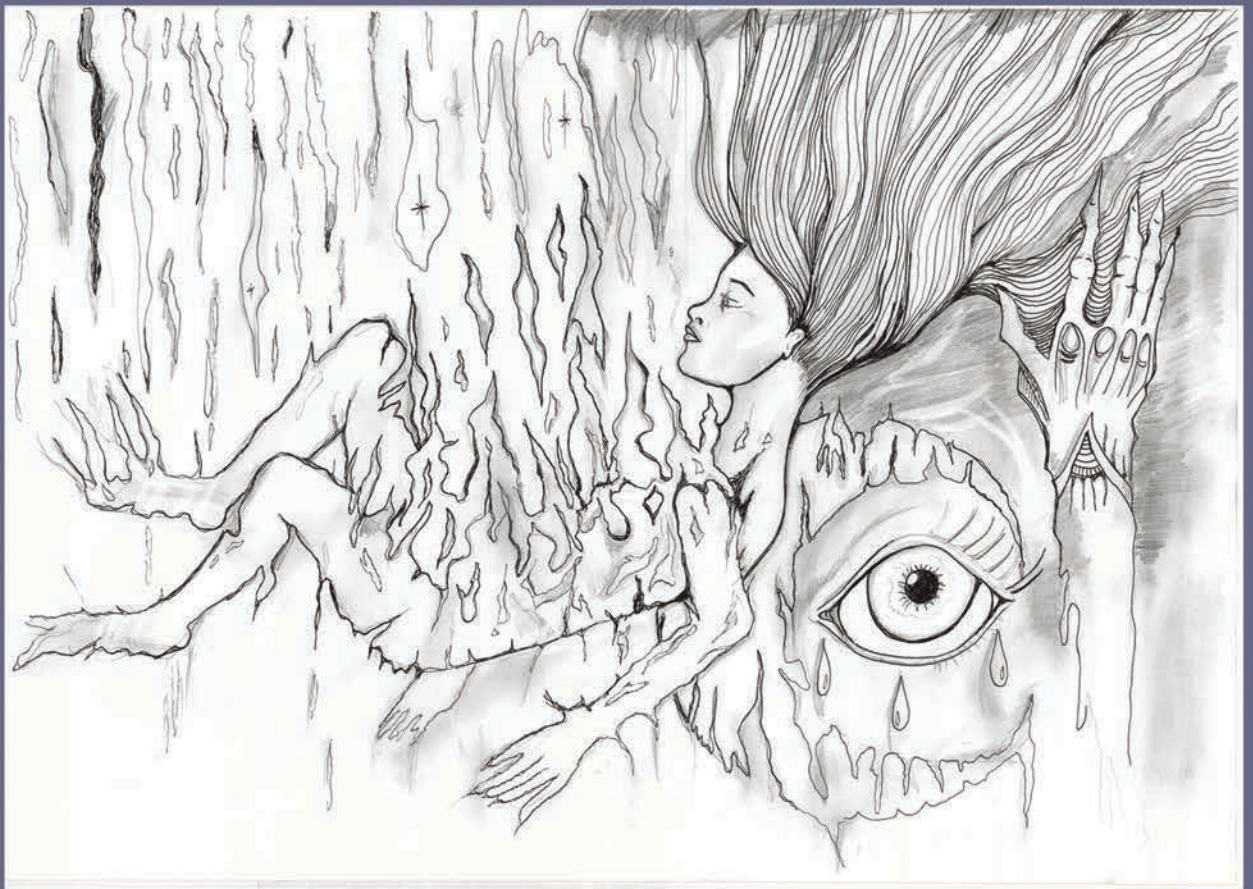
I’ve been met with a lot of positive feedback with my work being shown now in several exhibitions. I never thought I would allow my work to be seen in public, but Alan has shown me confidence and has built up a trust within our working together. He is always encouraging and very honest. If I get myself all worked up and am not understanding the way the art world works, he has guided me along. It’s not easy to get people on board with work, but with DAC I have had nothing but help and I have started to regain a self-purpose in life to get my works shown.

I’m really proud of my work of late – I displayed a picture in the Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay and I’m now searching for other ways of getting exhibition space.”

- Donna Brazier

I was first introduced to Donna via email. There was an intensity to her email. A feeling of I have something to share, *now!* So, I started off speaking to her as I do with all DAC members. I got a real feeling of this amazing person has so much to give. Just need a way to control the flow and enthusiasm. The creative torrent still flows. Donna sends me so much work, new work! She really is amazing. The rise in her work being seen alongside obtaining the fabulous Creative Steps Grant just shows what this funding has done for people like Donna.

- Alan Whitfield, DAC Visual Arts Officer



Artwork by Donna: 'Glimpses of Life', ink and pencil on paper.

Case Study 3: Artist of the Month Feature

“Being Artist of the Month for DAC was an honour. I am very grateful on how DAC have supported my artistic journey. Being Artist of the Month was one of my highlights this year and I hope to inspire others.

I believe that if you have a passion just go for it. I come from a working class family and I thought I’d never be where I am today. I was told by teachers I’d never amount to anything. Passion and drive is all you need.”

- Caitlin Flood-Molyneux



Artwork by Caitlin: “Lonely Star”,
Oil & Mixed Media on Canvas, 60 x
70cm, 2023

“Artist of the Month is a feature where we highlight the incredible work of one of our members. This includes a news post on our website and posts on social media exploring the artist’s practice and current projects.

Caitlin Flood-Molyneux was our Artist of the Month for May 2024. In addition to our website and social media, Caitlin’s feature was shared to the Arts Council of Wales’ news page, highlighting her touring exhibition ‘Going Away In Order To Return’, which started in Haverhub in Haverfordwest, travelled to “Art in the Attic” in The Factory in Porth, and is now in Cardiff in Cardiff Umbrella. Caitlin was also Shortlisted for the Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe list and exhibited in Sothebys for Fair Shot’s Charity Auction “Art + Neurodiversity” with SOTA Marketplace.”

Cerys Knighton, DAC Digital Communications Manager



Artwork in Caitlin’s Exhibition at Cardiff Umbrella.