



CCA: Centre for
Contemporary Arts

Annual Review 2020-21



Our year began with a lengthy closure, which ended in September 2020 as we reopened to the public with new safety measures in place and a vastly reduced programme. In the autumn, two exhibitions by Ross Little and Morwenna Kearsley took place in our gallery spaces, and our resident shops, Welcome Home and Aye-Aye Books, as well as Saramago Cafe Bar, were able to trade for a short period of time. Our winter break led into another lockdown and we remained closed until April 2021.

Glasgow Seed Library has grown and flourished as people sought seeds and turned to growing during lockdown. Organic, open-pollinated seeds were distributed to over 100 people in all corners of the city. We formed relationships with many new collaborators, including Glasgow Women's Library who exhibited a pop-up seed library in late 2020, The Gaia Foundation with whom we ran seed-saving workshops, and Lambhill Stables Community Garden, where we plan to establish a demonstration seed plot and a site for outdoor workshops. We also recruited a six month funded placement Seed Library Assistant, and fundraised successfully to support regular 'seedy socials' and Glasgow Seed School, a series of workshops and talks taking place over 2021.

In August, we were awarded funding from Creative Scotland through the Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund, which allowed us to secure the organisation during the pandemic closure, as well as develop artist residences, in partnership with Nottingham Primary and curator Jade Foster, and new online presences with a major upgrade to our existing website and a new digital space - CCA Annex.

Annex is an online project space that serves as a digital extension to the physical spaces in our building. It will act as a repository that will include interviews, films, essays, publications, performance, residencies, live events and games. Projects will be drawn from across CCA's programming strands and also feature new works specially-commissioned for Annex. The new digital space will launch in April 2021 with a new series of works by the artist Anti-cool.

A range of projects continued to grow and develop behind the scenes during our closure, expanding due to additional planning time and focus. Our Soot Breath / Corpus Infinitum exhibition, originally scheduled as part of Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art in 2020, will take place in June 2021 and now includes a book by artist Arjuna Neuman and philosopher Denise Ferreira da Silva, due for publication in the autumn. Our COP26 programme, originally due to happen in November 2020, has now expanded for 2021 to include much wider partnerships with a range of local and international artists and climate campaigners. We also supported a new cultural collaboration between the Goethe-Institut Glasgow and Alliance Française Glasgow with the Institut Français d'Ecosse which aims at uniting technology and art.

In September, our Public Engagement Curator, Viviana Checchia, moved on to a new role as Senior Lecturer in Fine Arts at HDK-Valand Academy of Art & Design, University of Gothenburg. We will reconsider the nature of our public engagement programme as social life is reestablished in the city. We'll consider what is relevant and needed by local communities, and what public engagement could look like in the future.

As a difficult and isolating year draws to a close, we are now planning the reopening of our venue, while continuing to connect audiences in digital spaces. We are looking forward to bringing people back to art experiences and community spaces, which have been much missed in the past year.

CCA presented two exhibitions in 2020-21 in our ground floor gallery space. These were:

ROSS LITTLE THIS IS WHERE THE SPIRITS TEND TO HANG OUT

MORWENNA KEARSLEY LEAVE THE DISHES, POKE THE JELLY

Both these exhibitions were originally scheduled for the Intermedia Gallery and were reconfigured to the larger ground floor space in line with our Coronavirus safety measures. Morwenna Kearsley's exhibition included audio description, while Ross Little developed captioning for the film work, in order to open up the exhibitions to a wider audience.

Intermedia Gallery is an independent gallery space on the second floor of CCA, funded by Glasgow City Council and managed by CCA in partnership with Glasgow Life. Funding for an exhibition is awarded to emerging artists through an annual open call for submissions. Artists selected for the 2020-21 Intermedia programme were Peter McKenna, Rodrigo Red Sandoval, Hyojun Hyjun, Alice Brooke, Adam Benmakhlouf, Gwenan Davies, Wei Zhang, Sooun Kim and Renèe Helèna Browne. Peter McKenna will now create a project for the Annex site, and all other artists will have an exhibition in the Intermedia space once restrictions allow.

CCA's Creative Lab is a space for artists to explore new ideas and methods during a residency. Artists are selected by our programming team from an annual open call. In 2020-21, we welcomed Roi Carmeli and Cameron Orr, Katherine Ka Yi Liu, and Soft Tissue (AC Projects residency) to the building in the autumn, while Winnie Herbstein and David Excoffier were supported in remote residencies. Six residencies from the 2020-21 selection will happen later this year with Raman Mundair, Heiba Lamara, Alex Hetherington, Alia Syed, Hio Lei, Sofia Niazi and Steven Fraser.

In December, we launched an open call for new residencies for artists, in collaboration with Nottingham Primary & curator Jade Foster. Artists suffered disproportionately as a result of COVID-19, with Black and POC artists, those with disabilities, long-term health conditions, from lower socio-economic backgrounds and facing intersecting barriers at further risk. We encouraged expressions of interest from, or on behalf of, anyone identifying with these groups. The four residencies each came with an artist fee of £3000, a £400 budget for the artist to engage with a mentor, curator or inspirational person, the option to share work in public, access to CCA spaces, support from CCA and Primary, and a budget for accessibility. The selected artists are Sequoia Barnes, Ada M. Patterson, Malik Nashad Sharpe and Matthew Arthur Williams.



Ross Little



Morwenna Kearsley



In 2020-21, CCA had:

16,888 ADMISSIONS TO THE BUILDING.
726 VISITORS TO OUR TWO MAIN GALLERY EXHIBITIONS.

CCA is home to a range of Cultural Tenants – cultural and artistic organisations who are based in our office space and contribute to CCA’s programme. In 2020-21 these were: **Ando Glaso; BHP Comics; Camcorder Guerrillas; Cryptic; Document; Electron Club; LUX Scotland; MAP Magazine; Paragon; Playwrights’ Studio Scotland; Scottish Ensemble; Scottish Writers’ Centre** and **Tom McGrath Writers’ Room**. CCA also hosts two shops, Aye-Aye Books and Welcome Home, as well as Saramago Café Bar.

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