

# ACCESSART

# 2024

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Annual report and Financial Statements of AccessArt  
(A company limited by guarantee)  
Company number 05110197  
Charity Number 1105049

For the year  
ending 31  
March 2024

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**NAME** ACCESSART

**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:** 1105049

**COMPANY NUMBER :** 05110197

## **REGISTERED ADDRESS**

6 West Street, Comberton, Cambridge, CB23 7DS

## **TRUSTEES & DIRECTORS**

The following served as both directors and trustees during the period:

Ms T S Wimhurst (Resigned 9 January 2024)

Ms Susan Coles

Mr Chris Owen

Ms Anne Morten

Ms Kate Williams (Joined 3 July 2024)

## **COMPANY SECRETARY**

Ms P Briggs

## **BANKERS**

The Co-operative Bank

75 Burleigh Street

Cambridge

CB1 1DF

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER**

Missieki Martin Limited,

Chartered Management Accountants,

10 Parkway

Crosby

Liverpool

L23 0ST

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2024**

The Trustees of AccessArt present their Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

### **Report of the Trustees**

The directors of AccessArt Limited ("the charitable company") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as its trustees. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Statement of Recommended Practice 2005 "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees have pleasure in presenting the charitable company's report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

### **Governing Document**

AccessArt Limited is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

### **Appointment of Trustees**

The number of trustees shall not be less than two but shall not be subject to a maximum. At each annual general meeting one third of the trustees or, if their number is not a multiple of three, the number nearest to one third must retire from office. They can be reappointed.

All trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute a maximum of £10 in the event of a wind up.

When a vacancy for a trustee becomes available, the position will be advertised via reputable and relevant agencies such as Arts Jobs and the Voluntary Arts Network, and by word of mouth. Potential trustees will be interviewed and voted at the next trustees meeting.

### **Objectives and Activities**

The principal object of the charitable company is the advancement of education in the visual arts.

#### **The aims of AccessArt are:**

1. to position itself as the innovative publisher of digital and physical visual arts learning experiences and teaching ideas which broaden and deepen visual arts education;
2. to nurture meaningful relationships between practitioners and learners, which ensure that through practice and dialogue, a climate of cross-fertilisation is celebrated and shared;
3. to act as a beacon on behalf of those who learn best visually, spatially and actively, and to advocate their needs to strategic local, regional and national organisations across the UK;

4. to pursue the opportunities presented to us by new technologies and to exploit their potential to deliver powerful and accessible visual learning experiences;
5. to raise funds through public funding and commercial activity with the aim of ensuring that a significant proportion of the material we distribute is free of charge to the end user.

In the exercise of our powers to that end we have paid due regard to the published guidance from the Charity Commission on the operation of the Public Benefit requirement under the Charities Act 2006.

## Overview

AccessArt is a UK charity (founded in 1999) which aims to ‘further the advancement of teaching and learning in the visual arts’. AccessArt advocates the importance of high quality, visual arts teaching and learning to ensure as many people as possible are able to work towards their creative potential. This is achieved through the creation and sharing of resources via [www.accessart.org.uk](http://www.accessart.org.uk).

In addition to the resources, we organise events and CPD to help build understanding amongst our audience of teachers, educators, creative practitioners and learners. We also place great emphasis on creating a sense of community which is as inclusive and diverse as possible.

## The 25 year anniversary of the founding of AccessArt.

AccessArt was proud to celebrate 25 years in 2024. Our community is now so large that it would take two O2 stadiums to hold all our members. [Our Team and Trustees](#) are very proud of all that has been achieved, and we're excited about what's ahead. [Explore our timeline](#) to learn more about how we evolved into being the largest provider of visual arts education resources in the UK.

AccessArt is a truly digital organisation – we have no offices and all team members work remotely in different parts of the UK. In early 2024 Trustees and the team members took the opportunity to spend two days together in York to reflect on this significant milestone. The conversation was far reaching, insightful, celebratory and ambitious. We reached our 25th year with nearly 23,000 members and now have over 42,000 email subscribers. You can find out more about how we have celebrated our anniversary at <https://www.accessart.org.uk/accessart-celebrates-25-years/>

As a self-sustaining arts organisation (a Charity, Limited Company and Subject Association), and as part of our anniversary celebrations, we have taken the time to remember and redefine 8 core values which have always helped shaped AccessArt, and which we commit to going forward. To help us do this we have been commissioning artists to help illustrate these ideals.

- AccessArt Value #1: [Growth is Driven by Ideas, Opportunities and Reflection](#) by Yu-Ching Chiu
- AccessArt Value #2: [Enthusiasm is Infectious and We Can all Play a Role in Fuelling or Stalling the Creative Potential of Others](#). Illustrated by Lizzie Lovejoy
- AccessArt Value #3: [Having the Confidence to Hold Ideas Lightly, Enables us to Create Space for Everyone to Reach their Potential](#). Illustrated by Jagoda Sadowska
- AccessArt Value #4: [Through small acts of understanding we can enable big thinking](#). Illustrated by Rachel Ng

These organisational values are important at every level. Their meaning is enriched by their context; they are the values by which we act as a team, they impact the work we deliver, and our relationships with users.

They are values which not only describe the way AccessArt endeavours to exist in the world, but also describe how best creativity might be allowed to flourish in the world, and to this end we hope our [values](#) resonate with our users.

### **Achievements, Performance and Future Plans**

It's been an incredibly exciting and productive time for AccessArt and we would like to thank the team and all contributors for helping to continue to make our vision a reality.

### **The AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum**

[The AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum](#) was launched in May 2022, ready for use in September 2022, which means that we are now seeing schools which have used our resources for a full academic year, as well as many more new schools signing up to try our resources for the first time.

In the summer of 2023 we invited users to complete a survey to feedback their experience of using our Primary Arts Curriculum in their school. We would like to thank the 447 teachers who responded on behalf of their school. You can read the full report here:

<https://www.accessart.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/AccessArt-Primary-Art-Curriculum-Survey-Report-2023-1.pdf>

Our resources are continually being updated and developed in response to users' needs, for example:

- We created [resources to help schools using the Split Curriculum](#) to understand how they can better develop drawing skills in non-art half terms.
- We revisited the way [support documentation](#) for the curriculum is displayed

Our intention is always that we help teachers to better understand "why" as well as "how", and to this end we continue to offer high quality Zoom CPD for teachers and [share examples](#) of how teachers are adapting our resources to make them relevant for their pupils.

As schools send us images of work produced in schools, we have also [created a series of galleries](#) to inspire other schools.

### **Teenage Enquiry-Based Learning**

Building on the success of the AccessArt Primary Art Curriculum, we have started work on creating an innovative approach for Key Stage 3 (ages 11 to 14). This is at an early stage in its development and will be a long term project, but you can see our intent as shared through animations which can be found at <https://www.accessart.org.uk/enquiry-based-learning-for-teenagers-menu/>

### **Other Resources and Areas of Focus**

During this period we created over 100 new resources. In particular, and thinking ahead to the Olympics in 2024, we created a number of [resources to help teachers explore sport and the Olympic Values through art](#).

We also spent considerable time restructuring page hierarchy to aid navigation, [creating new landing pages](#) for all materials and [all disciplines](#).

We also continued to develop the [AccessArt map](#).

### **Advocacy**

AccessArt's focus was, as always, also on the importance of advocacy for the importance of arts and arts education. With an election predicted, we turned our focus to working in partnership and supporting other organisations, to lend our voice to the cause. This included:

- Attending meetings of the NEU Arts & Education Roundtable: Planning for a shared Manifesto
- Attending meetings of the CultureCommons / Cultural Learning Alliance: Manifesto Roundtable
- Attending the All Party Parliamentary Group for Art, Craft, Design Education
- Attending Council for Subject Association meetings
- Writing extensively to [share our viewpoints](#)

## **Statistics**

Membership growth continued during 2023/24. At the end of March 2024 membership stood at 22,634, a 33% increase from the previous year. In addition, the number of subscribers on our email mailing list stood at almost 39K who received 17 newsletters from us over the period. Our AccessArt Network Facebook Group reached 5.5K with 3.4 K followers on Instagram and we delivered 29 live events and created and shared over 100 new resources for our community.

## **Trustees and Team**

### *Trustees*

A very special thanks to all our trustees who worked hard to support the organisation: Susan Coles, Chris Owen and Anne Moreton. Tamsin Wimhurst stepped down during this period after 12 years as a trustee.

### *Team*

In the Year 2022/23 AccessArt was directed and supported by Paula Briggs, CEO and Creative Director. Paula is the only member of the team who works full time, directing and managing the organisation, as well as working directly on projects, resources and CPD.

The average head count of employees during this period was 6.25.

### *Finance*

Lydia Hounsell from Missieki Martin Limited provides independent examination and accountancy services for AccessArt.

### *Website and Web Development*

AccessArt site continues to be on the "Digital Ocean" server and is managed by [Newtlabs](#), who continue to be responsible for [www.accessart.org.uk](http://www.accessart.org.uk) development and site care, including keeping plugins, back-up, WordPress updates and keeping security current and updated.

### *Legal*

London based solicitors, [CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP](#) (Formally Olswang), continue to advise AccessArt on a pro-bono basis on contracts, IPR, GDPR and permissions.

Cannon Place, 78 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6AF, United Kingdom.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Reserves Policy and Risks**

The trustees undertook a full review of their reserve policy in 2024. The level of target free reserves can be broken down into four components:

- A 'liquid' reserve to cover variance to plan and to provide a buffer to allow contingency actions to be effected.
- A 'liability' reserve which covers our requirement to cover deferred income in the accounts.
- A 'security' reserve, providing an additional buffer to the liquid reserve for more radical action (e.g. restructuring) in the event of a more serious or more sustained variance than anticipated.
- An 'underwriting' reserve, to allow the organisation to progress with projects which require a funding match. To review annually.

The target reserve is currently 300K and will be reviewed again in April 2025.

### **Statement of trustees' responsibilities**

The trustees, who are also directors of AccessArt, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. AccessArt has been formed as a company limited by guarantee.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial period. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards and applicable law.

The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees have:

- selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- made judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- followed applicable UK Accounting Standards, subject to additional disclosures made in the notes to the financial statements; and prepared the financial statements on the going concern since nothing has come to their attention to indicate otherwise.

The trustees accept responsibility for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993 and the Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities and to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charitable company is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- the charitable company complies with relevant laws and regulations

**Status**

The company is registered as a charity in the UK, Charity Number 1105049.

**Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies.

This report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf.

Chris Owen (Trustee)

Date



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total Funds	2023 Total Funds
<b><u>Incoming Resources</u></b>					
Incoming Resources from generated funds:					
- Voluntary Income	2	13	0	<b>13</b>	1
- Investment income	2	1,261	0	<b>1,261</b>	132
Incoming resources from Charitable Activities	3	339,610	0	<b>339,610</b>	308,249
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>340,884</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>340,884</b>	<b>308,382</b>
<b><u>Resources expended</u></b>					
Cost of charitable activities	4	233,026	0	<b>233,026</b>	189,830
Governance costs	5	10,031	0	<b>10,031</b>	12,573
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>243,057</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>243,057</b>	<b>202,403</b>
Net incoming/(outgoing)resources before transfers		<b>97,826</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97,826</b>	<b>105,979</b>
Total transfers		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		<b>97,826</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97,826</b>	<b>105,979</b>
Fund Balances brought forward		<b>233,750</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>233,750</b>	<b>127,771</b>
<b>Fund balances carried forward</b>		<b>331,577</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>331,577</b>	<b>233,750</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	6	46,667	29,337
Cash at bank and in hand	1	291,498	211,345
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		338,165	240,681
<b>Creditors</b>	7	(6,588)	(6,931)
<b>Net current assets</b>		331,577	233,750
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>331,577</b>	<b>233,750</b>
<b>THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Unrestricted funds			
General funds		331,577	233,750
Designated funds		0	0
Restricted funds		0	0
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>331,577</b>	<b>233,750</b>

Registered Company number 05110197

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Responsibilities of directors/trustees:

(a) The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, however, in accordance with section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 the financial statements have been examined by an independent examiner whose report appears on page 7.

(b) The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The notes on pages 11 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 5 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Chris Owen  
Trustee

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

### **1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Status of the company**

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

The liability of members is limited to £10 per member

#### **Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice

“Accounting and Reporting by Charities” issued in March 2005 (SORP 2005).

#### **Cash flow statement**

The trustees have taken advantage of the exemption in Financial Reporting Standard No 1 (revised) from including a cash flow statement on the grounds that the charity is small.

#### **Funds**

General accumulated funds are unrestricted funds available for general purposes and include funds designated for a particular purpose; the use of such funds remains at the discretion of the trustees.

#### **Incoming resources and charitable expenditure**

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charitable company has entitlement, there is certainty of receipt and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charitable company to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

#### **Interest receivable**

Bank interest is shown on the basis of amounts received in the year

#### **Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at a rate calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

Recording and office equipment - 4 years

Computer equipment - 3 years

Fixed assets are capitalised depending on their value at the discretion of the trustees.

#### **Irrecoverable VAT**

Irrecoverable VAT is allocated to the expense heading to which it relates in accordance with standard accounting practice.

#### **Taxation**

As a registered charity no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

## 2 INCOMING RESOURCES - Voluntary Income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£		£	£
Other income	0		0	0
Donation	13		13	1
Investment income	1,261		1,261	132
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,274</b>	<b>133</b>

## 3 INCOMING RESOURCES - Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£		£	£
Monthly Revenue	80,304		80,304	75,972
Project	0		0	0
Online CPD	9,940		9,940	26,846
Annual Subscriptions	248,413		248,413	204,585
Online Courses	0		0	0
Student Membership	888		888	845
Paula's book	0		0	0
Clay Play	0		0	0
Workshop	65		65	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>339,610</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>339,610</b>	<b>308,249</b>

## 4 CHARITABLE ACTIVITY COSTS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£		£	£
Artists, Educators and consultants fees	22,355		22,355	19,224
Cost of materials	200		200	58
Salaries	182,274		182,274	149,713
Software and internet costs	14,717		14,717	10,926
Marketing	2,866		2,866	1,859
Travel Expenses	3,194		3,194	677
Insurance and office costs	1,136		1,136	2,007
Legal fees	824		824	600
Miscellaneous	5,461		5,461	4,766
	233,026	0	233,026	189,830

## 5 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accountancy fees	1,216	1,159
Independent examiners fee	150	150
Book-keeping fees	8,665	11,264
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,031</b>	<b>12,573</b>

## 6 Debtors

	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income receivable	46,667	29,337
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,667</b>	<b>29,337</b>

## 7 Creditors

	<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>Total 2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	6,588	6,931
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,588</b>	<b>6,931</b>

## 8 Controlling Interests

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and is controlled by the Trustees, who are also directors of AccessArt for the purposes of company law. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10.

Signed By

**CHRIS OWEN**

Date Signed	2024-12-05 11:18:15
Email	chris.owen@aru.ac.uk
Printed Name	Chris Owen
IP Address	80.5.198.167
Browser User Agent	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64; rv:132.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/132.0
Name of signatory	Christopher Owen