

MANIFESTO

We, Engage, SCAN and the Scottish Artists Union, undertake to work together with urgency to address the significant challenges and inequalities that exist within the visual arts in Scotland

We are visual artists, cultural workers, curators, educators, freelancers, makers, producers, technicians, writers, art lovers and the organisations that employ, represent or support us

We respect and value the diverse and powerful contribution that art and artists make to our society, culture and economy

We believe that art is vital for the health and wellbeing of individuals and society

We recognise that artists inspire agency and change within their communities and they play an essential role in public life

We call upon policy makers to place culture at the heart of representative policy and decision making

We draw attention to the fragility of our arts infrastructure and its reliance on voluntary or low paid work and diminishing investment

We advocate for workers' rights, fair pay and professional working conditions across the arts and commit to upholding them in all aspects of our work

We call for longer term public investment that supports the creative and professional development of artists, workers and organisations

We urge policy makers to develop fit for purpose legislation that supports and protects those navigating precarious livelihoods

We seek to work within a cultural environment that is collaborative rather than competitive, and resist the pressure of continual growth, a burden that expects us to do more with less

We demand that the social impact and intrinsic value of our everyday cultural labour and commitment be recognised

We commit to openness in our discussion, and understanding, of the barriers that affect people working in the visual arts and those who do not participate

We pledge to take urgent action to create a visual arts sector that celebrates diversity and promotes equality of opportunity for all

We insist that the potential of learning through the arts is seen as crucial in helping to change and shape children and young people's lives

We maintain that learning can play a nourishing and vital role for all of us, throughout our lives

We defend the right of art and artists to move freely across borders and defend the freedoms of our international peers and colleagues

We are dedicated to working towards an environmentally sustainable future and will use our unique tools as artists and cultural workers to help innovate and inspire the transformational change that is needed

We encourage others to work with us to advance these intentions and navigate these precarious times.