

The 62 group of textile artists Committee meeting minutes Sat 5 March 2022 Zoom

1 Attendance

Who was there:

Catherine Dormer, Isobel Currie, Vanessa Rolf, Emily Jo Gibbs, Ealish Wilson, Richard McVetis, Sally Spinks

Who sent apologies:

Anna Gravelle, Hannah Lamb

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Approved

3 Finance

On the 14th February, the Natwest account balance was £16,865.38. On the 24th February, the Paypal account balance was £1,571.51. This is a total of £18,436.

At this point, Christina is unable to provide a full breakdown, as she is still in the process of accessing online banking. The registered business address has now been updated to her home address, as treasurer.

We recently received the financial gift from the Audrey Walker estate of £2,500. This is included in the total above. We have also received a final payment from the Canal/River Trust in relation to the British Textile Biennial, a payment of £1500, also included the total.

To contact Christina, her new email address is treasurer@62group.co.uk

Moving forwards, we won't be accepting cheques to pay for subs, selection or hanging fees. Payment will only be by bank transfer or Paypal.

Looking ahead, Christina will be preparing an annual phased budget so that we can estimate when monies will be arriving and leaving, allowing us to make better judgements about how, where and when we spend from the pot.

She will also be looking into ways of streamlining the payments for exhibition submissions and hanging fees in order to make it easier for everyone to pay, and easier for her to check that payments have been made.

Account signatories - Catherine is in the process of becoming a signatory with the bank and Paypal and the committee voted to approve this change:

It was resolved that the mandate for the 62group's bank account at NatWest be altered in accordance with the account signing rules. The former Chair Debbie

Lyddon to be replaced by the new Chair Catherine Dormer and the current mandate will continue as amended.

4 Membership

Isobel presented a breakdown of the categories and some recommendations of how we make better use of our Friends and Non-Exhibiting Honorary Members. (See APPENDIX 1 for full report). It was agreed to add the descriptions to the website and to engage some categories in selection panels etc. It was also decided to use the AGM as a time to review who is in each category and how we can utilize them further to champion the group.

Also noted that the 62group website had been undated with recent changes in membership.

Action: Catherine to contact Hilary Bower and Jo Hall about their Honorary memberships

Action: Isobel to chase Louise to obtain information so she can pull together a list of all members of the group since it's foundation.

5 New Members

Ealish reported that the submissions criteria had been written and posted to Curatorspace with the link and information posted to social media. She wanted to thank members who have sent the information to various contacts and organizations.

Only one submission has been received to date - but with June deadline this is not a surprise.

Moving forward – Ealish is planning more regular posts/ highlights about the group.

6 Publicity

Publicity achieved for 'Conversations' exhibition at St Barbé:

Embroidery magazine featured the exhibition in Jan/Feb issue 'the Year Ahead' on p.9, accompanied by an image of Ealish Wilson's work. It was also included in the listings on p.58.

Publicity for new members

Listings have been placed on the following;

- Crafts Council - opportunities
- Arts Council England - Arts News
- Creative Scotland
- A-N
- Artquest

Hannah has also sent the info out via her contacts on LinkedIn (many in universities / Higher Education). The info for both categories of membership has

also been circulated to all universities and colleges who are members of FtC (Association of Fashion & Textiles Courses).

It will be a good idea to continue to post on social media about the new Associate Membership and tag in universities with textiles departments and find a way to reach wider groups.

7 Newsletters

Noted that the public newsletter had been circulated by Emily on 1st March. Sally will be co-ordinating the production of the members newsletter to go out by end of March.

Action: Emily & Richard to write a review of St Barbe for Members Newsletter

8 Exhibitions

60th Anniversary year 2022:

Members have the brief; this is also on the member areas.

Richard has spoken with Jo Hall and confirmed our attendance at both the K&S exhibitions and will speak with Jo later this year confirm size of the space.

Alexandra Palace, London, October 6th – 9th 2022

Harrogate, November, 17th –20th 2022

We are still hoping that Jessica Hemmings will write a piece based on the information from the archive. We will use this text along with a timeline of the group logos. Richard will work with a graphic designer to design a poster/ leaflet launched at the anniversary show. Perhaps with an exhibition of items from the archive.

Jo Hall and Anna Baptiste are interested in organising some events, workshops, talks programme.

Jo and K&S are also interested in supporting the associate membership idea.

Action: Catherine/Richard to encourage Honorary Exhibiting Members to show

Sunny Bank Mills 2023:

Richard met with Jane Kay about the potential exhibition at Sunny Bank Mills. She wants to include it in a funding application for Leeds 2023

A brief will be shared with the group by March 2022, selection March 2023 with an exhibition from May to July.

Richard spoke with Jane early Feb 2022 and she is currently writing the brief 'Tailored'

62 Group at 62 2024:

Richard has written to the Fashion and Textile Museum and proposed our original idea 'The Future of Textile Art' which links to the lecture series. He is waiting for a response. As a backup, he have also asked what the availability of the Morley

Gallery (£1500 pw) is in 2024 or the smaller gallery at the OXO building (£3500). Richard is putting together a budget for options.

9 Education

Conversations

During Conversations at St Barbes there were the following education events:

Family workshop (Vanessa Rolf) = total 9 participants

Adults workshop x 3 (1 with Vanessa Rolf and 2 with Emily Jo Gibbs) = total 30 participants

Schools tours (age 10/11) x 2 (Vanessa Rolf) = total 30 students

Knit and Stitch

Knit and Stitch show Engagement opportunities to be discussed.

Film workshop

It has been proposed we should create a film alongside the 60th anniversary exhibition at the Knit and stitch show. [Lucy Forrester](#) (lucy@proudfoxcreative.co.uk) who created the BTB film has been suggested as a possible editor to work with the group again.

It has been suggested we explore Lucy running a 'how to film your process' workshop for members to encourage everyone to submit films for the showreel.

These are Lucy's breakdown of options for workshops

Option 1 pre recorded workshop. Cost £600

Option 2 in person workshop, filmed for non attenders Cost £1200

Option 3 in person workshop, live streamed and filmed for non attenders Cost £1800

We need to clarify which option we would like to proceed with and book Lucy in with enough time to ensure members can document their making process for their submissions to Knit and Stitch 2022.

Film budget for Knit and Stitch

We also need to authorise budget for Proud Fox to edit members film to accompany Knit and Stitch. The BTB showreel took around 6/7 days for Lucy to complete. Lucy says with good self shot footage it could have taken around half of that time so it would have cost around £750 for her to edit it. However it may be good to clarify how many members footage she worked on for BTB and that number of submissions may increase if we are aiming to include everyone.

Action: Vanessa to check with Lucy that she would be happy with the format of pre-questionnaire, workshop, then live Q&A (mediated)

Action: Vanessa to understand from Lucy what does she need in terms of information from us to plan a workshop (types of equipment we have, existing skill levels)

Action: Once we have this, Sally to ask members who will want to make a film for K&S and gain the info for Lucy including preference of online/in person and if in person, preference on location.

10 Inclusivity & Diversity

Associate Membership

We launched the Associate Membership Scheme in early February 2022 with the aim of widening the reach of our membership.

Full details of brief and scheme here:

<https://membership.62group.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/62-Group-Associate-Member-Brief-Edited.pdf>

This scheme has been shared in the following ways: Instagram - 2 posts, Facebook - 1 post, Newsletter, Members e mail, 62 Group Website

Application (via curator space) deadline is 1/6/22
Selection (online) scheduled for 10/6/22

Yemi Awosile accepted to be external panelist for selection. £250 fee offered for her time and expertise.

Second selection is to be discussed. This may depend on application numbers and quality of digital submission. We may need to consider costs to applicants if inviting physical work for selection.

Next steps

- Increase social media posts and maybe invite questions via instagram stories?
- Explore having separate posts about Associate Membership to encourage people to share with specific audiences.
- Vanessa to draft a letter to members inviting people to come forward as mentors (either as 'friend' role or for one off professional development sessions).

We also had other actions included on our inclusion and diversity plan (attached as APPENDIX 2) but none have been progressed further as we have prioritised the Associate Membership scheme.

The committee discussed the possibility of filming dialogues with makers from more diverse backgrounds – these could be our future networking events if we get permission to film and share. Fee of £250 for guests was agreed and potentially opened up to public through Eventbrite – with a donation, not a fee so we encourage a broad audience.

Action: Vanessa to explore potential guests

Action: Sally to put a call out to members for somebody to work with Vanessa on Diversity & Inclusion

11 AOB

Exhibitions committee member

Action: Ealish and Daisy to speak with Richard to discuss how they might split the role and Sally will ask Paddy what she feels she'd like to contribute.

Audrey Walker legacy

Catherine and Sally proposed 3 potential uses: Travel/education/equipment for members (criteria TBD), Workshops/education for whole group, or a publication of the history of the group to current/future practice(perhaps to coincide with 62nd anniversary?).

Action: Committee to consider these ideas and we'll hold a discussion at the next committee where we can explore other ideas too.

Email Address Sharing

Action: Sally to draft a note for Catherine to send to the group saying people should update their email on our website if they want to share it with the group.

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday 11th June 2022 9.30am

APPENDIX 1

62 Group Membership categories 23/2/22 – Isobel Currie

Explanation:

There has been no document which clearly defines all the different categories of 62 Group Membership. It seems appropriate to rectify this as we add the new category of Associate Member. The document can then be kept as a reference to be used when considering the different membership categories. We can also take this opportunity to consider how all categories of member can be encouraged to further the aims of the Group in the future.

Much of the information in the membership categories list has been extrapolated from the constitution, with some additions from other documents on the website, and from comments made by members at the AGM.

Exhibiting Member

Exhibiting Membership is open to those of any age, gender or nationality working in any textile media worldwide. Selection of applicants is done by a panel of present Group members. They can also be invited to join by majority vote at the AGM.

Once selected, exhibiting members are entitled to submit work to 62 Group exhibitions, providing opportunities to promote and exhibit their work at a national and international level. All exhibitions are subject to a selection procedure to stimulate the Group's growth and development. If exhibiting members fail to submit, or to be selected, for three consecutive exhibitions their membership shall lapse. They may take a sabbatical year in exceptional circumstances subject to committee agreement.

They receive the members' newsletter, invitations to private views and other events, and notifications of opportunities. They are entitled to join in other membership activities such as networking meetings, and have an artist's profile on the 62 Group website.

A committee of members administers the Group and members must be willing to take an active part in assisting in this administration, participating on selection panels, and helping with exhibitions and promotion. They are also invited to mentor associate members and participate in education events.

They pay an annual subscription fee, and exhibition submission fees and exhibition hanging fees.

Honorary Exhibiting Member

Honorary Exhibiting Members are elected by majority vote at the AGM. They are professional artists with an international reputation and whose work enhances the reputation of the Group. They are entitled to submit work to 62 Group exhibitions. Honorary membership is for life. Honorary exhibiting members will not lose their membership if they fail to send work in to three consecutive exhibitions, but their work is subject to the normal selection procedure.

They receive the members' newsletter, invitations to private views and other events, and notifications of opportunities. They are entitled to join in other membership activities such as networking meetings, and have an artist's profile on the 62 Group website.

They are encouraged to assist in enhancing the reputation and raising the profile of the Group. They may participate in the running of the Group, standing for committee posts, assisting with administration, participating on selection panels, and helping with exhibitions and promotion. They are also invited to mentor associate members and participate in education events.

They are not required to pay an annual subscription fee, but do pay exhibition submission fees and exhibition hanging fees.

Honorary Non-Exhibiting Member

Honorary Non-Exhibiting Members are elected by majority vote at the AGM and are those who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of textile art, for example by being distinguished in the field of textiles as gallery directors, curators, academics or business people.

They receive the members' newsletter, and invitations to private views and other events, and are entitled to join in other membership activities such as networking meetings.

They are encouraged to support the group and its objectives by enhancing its reputation and raising its profile.

They are not required to pay an annual subscription.

Associate Membership

Associate Membership is designed to open up access to professional practice for emerging/early career textile artists with a two-year programme that includes financial and practical support, guidance and mentoring, and the opportunity to exhibit with the Group, followed by the opportunity to apply for full membership of the Group. The aim of this category is to motivate, encourage and support rising textile artists in the next stage of their practice. Applicants need to demonstrate excellence in their creative practice and show how they will benefit from the supported opportunity to be a contributing member of the 62 Group. They must be a UK resident and be willing and able to make a commitment to take up the Associate membership for its full two year duration.

All emerging/ early career textile artists can apply. Applications from people of all genders, backgrounds and communities, particularly from underrepresented groups such as minority ethnic backgrounds, are encouraged. One applicant a year is selected by a panel of present 62 Group members. They are entitled to submit work to 62 Group exhibitions and will be subject to the same selection procedures as full members.

They receive the members' newsletter, invitations to private views and other events, and notifications of opportunities. They are entitled to join in other membership activities such as networking meetings, and have an artist's profile on the 62 Group Website.

It is free to apply for this award. Associate Members are not required to pay an annual subscription, or exhibition submission fees and exhibition hanging fees. They will receive an expenses award of £500 per year (£1000 altogether) They pay no membership fees for the first year of any subsequent full 62 Group membership.

Friend

Friends are invited after being agreed by the Committee.

Members who retire from exhibiting with the Group are offered the opportunity to become Friends. They can keep in touch with the activities of the Group by receiving the members' newsletter and invitations to private views and other events.

They are not required to pay an annual subscription.

Recommendations

I don't think anything needs changing in the membership categories, but we need to ensure that we are utilising the full potential of members across all categories to enhance the profile of the Group:

- There have been very few Honorary Non-Exhibiting Members added to the Group in recent years. I would suggest that members are asked each year before the AGM if there is anyone they would like to nominate who they think would fit the criteria and have useful knowledge and skills to bring to the Group. Any suggested candidates could then be voted on at the AGM.
- The Honorary Non-Exhibiting Members are selected to support the Group and its objectives by enhancing its reputation and raising its profile. We have not drawn much on this resource in recent years. When planning any event we should be in the habit of considering whether these members could provide useful input, and encouraging them to participate. For example, some Honorary Non-Exhibiting Members work in educational establishments and could assist in promoting the Associate Membership.
- All exhibiting members who retire from the Group should be offered the chance to become Friends so that we can maintain some contact with them.

APPENDIX 2

62 Group Equality and Inclusion Action Plan

October 2021

Proposed Action	Action taken	Date taken	Next steps
Review our wording across all platforms to ensure we are explicit about inviting applications from all.	To be actioned		
Review our application process specifically to explore and address potential barriers.	- Reduced cost in applying for first selection (digital applications) rather than sending work.	2021	Full review to be actioned
Explore creating opportunities to allow potential applicants to begin a dialogue with members (via talks, presentations, Q&A sessions, artist films).	- BTB artist films created and shared via BTB exhibition & Website - Jane McKeating exploring additional films for website	Oct 2021 Oct 2021	Zoom Q&A or film presentation about 62 group for prospective members and wider audiences to be explored - to coincide with launch of Bursary / Associate Membership Scheme (Summer 2022).
Look at how and where we promote exhibitions and application procedures to reach the broadest possible audiences.	- Invite members to share connections/contacts they might have to collate information.	Nov/Dec 2021	Seek advice from other bodies within textiles and craft who have addressed similar issues. Eg. Crafts Space, Crafts Council, Cockpit Arts
Invite external people onto exhibition selection panels who reflect diverse voices and invite them to critique our selection practices.	Deidre Fiagrado (Craft Space) and Jenny Rutter (Super Slow Way) on BTB Selection Panel	Spring 2021	Members to offer suggestions for external selection panels who will contribute their diverse expertise.
Explore bursaries/ associate membership scheme to support early career artists from diverse backgrounds.	Draft Proposal going to Committee for discussion	Nov 2021	Aim to have everything approved by members and ready to launch Summer 2022.

N.B.

These proposed actions were the results of discussions with a group of members who put themselves forward to explore how the 62 Group can work towards anti racist practices within our artist led cooperative. The outcomes of the working group were shared with the committee. We have agreed at the AGM 2020 that we will actively work toward these goals, including contributing some of the groups funds to support these objectives.