

Annual Report

2023 – 24



DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts

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Cover: Spring Holiday Pop-up,
Photograph by Erika Stevenson

This page: Michelle Williams Gamaker,
Our Mountains Are Painted on Glass.
Photograph by Erika Stevenson

Welcome

This year has brought a lot to celebrate, with a dynamic and diverse programme, invaluable local and national partnerships, expanded fundraising and commercial activity, our largest audience numbers since the pandemic, and, of course, our brilliant 25th birthday. I'm so pleased to be able to present some of these highlights in our Annual Report.

Our work with artists is central to DCA. This year, exhibitions by Zineb Sedira, Saoirse Amira Anis, Rachel Eulena Williams and Michelle Williams Gamaker explored colour and movement, migration and displacement, water and global journeys, representation and revolt, accompanied by publications of newly commissioned writing, events, tours, Artist's Choice cinema screenings, and editions created in our Print Studio. Acting as lead partner on Art Night, for its first iteration outside of London, was a wonderful opportunity to help showcase Dundee's vibrant cultural sector, with over 15,000 visitors from across the UK joining us for an incredible night across the city.

It would be hard to reflect on the last year in cinema without thinking of the 'Barbenheimer' phenomenon, and we were thrilled that so many people chose to see these titles here. Cinema goers love a rich mix of films here at DCA, and this year was no exception, with curated seasons, partnership projects, and special events. Our flagship film festivals, Discovery and Dundead, were huge successes, with Discovery celebrating its 20th year with a large increase in school visits and our busiest public screenings ever. It was a similar story with Dundead, our annual horror film festival, with our highest visitor figures yet.

Supporting artists is at the heart of DCA Print Studio's activity, from exceptional staff expertise to world-class equipment, from our Get Creative classes and workshops to our residencies. With the support of the Jerwood Foundation, we launched a programme of flexible artist residencies, suitable for those with caring responsibilities, and school and community groups have all contributed to the busy and collaborative environment in the Print Studio, which makes for a warm welcome for artists at all stages of their careers.

Stories of successful engagement continued with the Learning team's work, with impactful teaching, tours, workshops and activities at DCA and right across Dundee. This was our most extensive programme to date, with increased work with families and offsite communities, and the appointment of our first Art Therapist as part of Art at The Start, in partnership with The University of Dundee and NHS Tayside's Perinatal Infant Mental Health team.

Our education work continued with Discovery Film Festival's school workshops, our popular Pupil Conference Day, a pilot project with Braeview High School, a new partnership with Craigie High Additional Support for Deaf Inclusion teams, and our ongoing work Kingspark School, for children with complex additional support needs. Crafting, making and gaming are as popular as ever at DCA, and hundreds of participants took part in Craft Sunday classes, and games by local developers were showcased through our busy Drop In and Play event.

It has meant a lot to me that this year we have been able to focus on staff wellbeing, equity and social justice, through our commitment to Fair Work, training, policies that reflect staff's needs, and feedback through our Staff Engagement Group, EDI Group, Green Group and Bicycle User Group. The overwhelmingly positive feedback in our staff survey was very welcome and we were pleased that our ongoing work to improve our sustainability and reduce our environmental impact saw us admitted to the Gallery Climate Coalition.

Increased commercial and hires activity, an extended CRAFTED Christmas market, our first Made in DCA Print Studio exhibition, and exciting new product developments have seen our commercial performance go from strength to strength. This earned income is essential alongside our funding, particularly as the cultural sector continues to weather challenging financial times. We were bold this year in highlighting the risks that the sector faces if not properly funded. Support from our funders is an investment, in the wellbeing, the health, the creative richness, and the economic successes of our society. Artists, culture and cultural organisations make for a better world with a brighter future.

My thanks go to all of our funders and supporters, to the trusts and foundations, to the corporate partners, and particularly to the individuals who choose to support us as members, friends and patrons. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to DCA staff and Trustees. This brilliant and committed team of people is what keeps DCA true to our values: bold, open, meaningful, magical and caring. Celebrating 25 years was a huge milestone, and we can't wait for the next 25.

Beth Bate, Director



“
Artists,
culture and
cultural
organisations
make for a
better world
with a
brighter
future.”

2023–24 at a glance

16,700

Gallery visits



61

artists supported through work across our programme

“

Love DCA, only lived here 3 years but for me it's the jewel in the crown of Dundee. Great staff, great venue.

”

Audience feedback

11,327

people engaged with our Learning programme

124

Print Studio courses & workshops

2,819

film screenings

Top 10 films by attendance:

Barbie

Oppenheimer

The Boy and the Heron

Dune Part 2

Poor Things

Wonka

All of Us Strangers

One Life

Killers of the Flower Moon

Asteroid City

39

Schools attended
Discovery Film Festival
screenings



“

The pay what you can option was brilliant. As I'm on maternity leave at the moment this class would have been a luxury that we couldn't afford. Our kids loved it and we all had a brilliant time together without feeling financial pressure.

”

15,000

people attended
Art Night Dundee

Special Events



Art Night Dundee

We were thrilled to be the lead partner for Art Night Dundee, bringing this major art festival to the city for its first full iteration outside London on 24 June 2023.

We hosted the Art Night team in our building, co-ordinated partners from across Dundee, provided curatorial and fundraising support, presented a commission by exhibiting artist Saoirse Amira Anis, marked the opening with press events and galvanised support for the project across the city.

Art Night Dundee was an incredible evening of contemporary art with 10 commissions and 12 projects with local collectives, across 35 sites and welcoming over 15,000 visitors from across the UK. The event brought a huge wave of press coverage with news and features in national titles all helping to raise the profile of our city as a cultural destination.

Image above: Saoirse Amira Anis, *Breach of a Fraying Body* at Art Night Dundee. Photograph by Erika Severson

Facing page: 25 Years in Print. Photograph by Helen Macdonald



25 years of DCA

On Tue 19 March 2024 we celebrated the 25th anniversary of DCA opening its doors to the public.

We marked the occasion with a Civic Reception at the city chambers, hosted by Lord Provost of Dundee Bill Campbell, and attended by staff, supporters, stakeholders and artists. We heard from two young people whose careers have been influenced by connecting with DCA as teenagers, and John Alexander, Leader of Dundee City Council, spoke inspiringly about DCA's impact.

Birthday celebrations continued throughout the week, with a series of film highlights from 1999 in our cinema, including a Dundee screening of *Ravenous* and a very busy screening of teen comedy classic *10 Things I Hate About You*, with special *Shorts for Tinies* and *Shorts for Wee Ones* screenings for families.

We were also able to bring together the most extensive display to date of artworks produced in DCA Print Studio for our *Editions* programme. *25 Years in Print*, an exhibition in Centrespace, celebrated the art of printmaking and demonstrated the open approach to collaboration and experimentation that makes DCA so unique.

To coincide with the anniversary, The Courier ran several in-depth features about DCA, from an interview with Director Beth Bate to a look at the early development of the organisation.

“ I am eternally grateful for the role, the stewardship, the leadership, the friendship and the vision that DCA continues to bring to the table and long may that continue. Here's to the next 25 years!

Cllr John Alexander, Leader of Dundee City Council

I just love and appreciate what care goes into everything about the DCA which gives it that unique vibe. I feel nourished at every level there.

Audience Feedback





Top: Rachel Eulena Williams, *Hair and Body*
Bottom: Michelle Williams Gamaker, *Our Mountains Are Painted on Glass*
Photographs by Ruth Clark

Exhibitions

“

It is hard to think of many organisations who have so much to offer and the commitment across the organisation to bring my work to new audiences has been exceptional.

Michelle Williams Gamaker

”

In 2023–24 we brought four exhibitions to our galleries, celebrating work by established international artists alongside those at earlier stages of their careers, and spanning mediums from painting to photography, film and installation.

We began with *Can't You See the Sea Changing?*, a major solo exhibition by Zineb Sedira developed in collaboration with De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill-on-Sea and her first project in UK public galleries for 12 years. Beginning with Sedira's fascination with the sea as an enigmatic yet geopolitically charged space, as well as the coastal contexts of Dundee Contemporary Arts and De La Warr Pavilion, the exhibition spanned a period from 2008 to the present day, bringing together photography, installation, film and archival material.

Alongside Sedira's exhibition, we were pleased to present *symphony for a fraying body*, the first major solo show by Dundee-based artist Saoirse Amira Anis. The exhibition took its title from a newly-commissioned film work following a rope-laden, amphibious mythical creature as it journeyed in return to the sea. Anis's exhibition formed part of Art Night Dundee, for which she also received a commission for a live performance starting at DCA and moving along the waterfront.

In August, we opened *Hair and Body*, debuting a new body of work by New York-based artist Rachel Eulena Williams. Marking the artist's first major solo exhibition in a UK public institution, the exhibition showcased a new body of work across painting, sculpture and installation. Her work upends traditional approaches to colour and form by expanding her ideas beyond the canvas rectangle; incorporating print, assemblage and bricolage to create multidimensional and layered shapes which seep and blend into their surroundings. Williams took full advantage of DCA's light and expansive spaces to play with scale and create considerable installations to fill the largest of the two galleries.

Our final exhibition of the year was *Our Mountains Are Painted on Glass* by Michelle Williams Gamaker, opening in December and developed in partnership with South London Gallery. The artist's work responds to films watched during childhood, unpacked and seen anew over time, which raise important conversations about race, representation, identity and agency. *Our Mountains Are Painted on Glass* premiered the artist's newly-commissioned film *Thieves*, the first work of her *Fictional Revenge* series. Taking inspiration from early Hollywood and British cinema, *Thieves* is a thrilling fantasy adventure based on both the 1924 silent black-and-white and 1940 Technicolor films of the same name: *The Thief of Bagdad*.



Top: Zineb Sedira, *Can't You See the Sea Changing?*
Bottom: Saoirse Amira Anis, *symphony for a fraying body*
Photographs by Ruth Clark

Facing page: Rachel Eulena Williams, *Hair and Body*
Photograph by Erika Stevenson



Exhibitions

“
...Dundee
Contemporary Arts,
which frequently
shows the most
thoughtful, critical
and ambitious
shows in Scotland

Tom Jeffreys,
Art Monthly



During her time with DCA, Williams Gamaker was able to work across all programme areas, from producing limited editions and works for the exhibition in our Print Studio, to introducing two titles in our Powell and Pressburger film season, each accompanied by one of her own short films.

Throughout the year, our exhibitions programme was enhanced by a programme of talks, events, workshops, discussions and screenings curated alongside the exhibitions to offer up further ways for audiences to engage with artwork in the galleries. We also published three new publications accompanying Zineb Sedira, Saoirse Amira Anis and Rachel Eulena Williams’s exhibitions, featuring specially-commissioned texts by artists and writers.

Media coverage of our exhibitions programme continued to be strong, with coverage across a broad range of Scottish, national and specialist titles, including *Art Monthly*, *Art Basel* online, *Ocula*, *Artforum*, *The Scotsman* and *The Herald*. Art Night Dundee brought a further wave of arts-focused coverage for the city, with DCA heavily featured in coverage in *The Scotsman* and *Art Monthly*.

Thank you to all the supporters who made our exhibitions programme possible over 2023–24; 71 Brewing, Diversity Art Forum, Fluxus, and the William S Phillips Fund.



CELEBRATING MOST ENDURING FILM

Black short film Narcissus (35mm) with House of Women

INTRODUCED BY MICHELLE WILLIAMS GAMAKER
SUN 10 DECEMBER 2023
DCA.ORG.UK

DCA
Dunfermline Contemporary Arts

Film Hub Scotland

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a bright yellow polka-dot shirt and pink gloves, is standing at a podium. She is smiling and gesturing with her right hand towards the screen behind her. She is holding a small book or brochure in her left hand. The podium has a microphone in front of her.

Top: DCA Projection Room
Bottom: Michelle Williams Gamaker introducing a screening of *Black Narcissus*
Photographs by Erika Stevenson

Cinema



I love the DCA cinema at the best of times but the specially curated films you can't just go and see everywhere else really make it.

The folk behind your film programme are fab.

Audience feedback



2023–24 saw a 27% increase in our cinema admissions with encouraging signs of a return to regular cinema-going across our audiences. This increase outpaced the national average of 16.4%, thanks to targeted programming, special seasons and festivals and growing uptake of DCA Membership.

The year was dominated by the international phenomenon that was *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer*. We leaned into the cultural moment, promoting tie-in cocktails in Jute Café Bar, sharing audience feedback and running a significant digital campaign, all of which contributed to nearly over 10,000 admissions for the two titles, placing them among our most successful since opening in 1999. Other busy titles included *The Boy and the Heron*, *Poor Things* and *All of Us Strangers*, demonstrating the range of our programme and the broad interests of our audiences.

Our annual horror film festival, Dundead, returned to our screens in May with a mix of new films, classics and a David Cronenberg retrospective. It was our most successful edition of the festival to date, with 905 admissions across the 13 screenings and events. We added monthly Dundead screenings to our programme to ensure we're serving this audience year-round while developing audiences for the festival, with highlights including screenings as part of our Tartan and Powell and Pressburger seasons, and a 50th anniversary screening of *The Exorcist*.

Collaboration with partners remains a central part of our programming approach. This year we launched our biggest partnership with V&A Dundee to date, with a year-round programme of films coinciding with their *Tartan* exhibition, most of which featured introductions or Q&As with special guests. We also worked with the Catalan Film Festival, Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme, FOKUS: Films from Germany, Solar Flares: Deaf Heritage and many more.

We continue to welcome special guests to speak in the cinema, with highlights this year including a visit from director Carol Morley for a Q&A accompanying her film *Typist Artist Pirate King*; a busy screening of documentary *Tish* introduced by director Paul Sng, and a screening of *Allelujah* as part of Festival of the Future, featuring a post-film discussion with academics and care workers.

Interest in vintage and classic cinema remains strong: we capitalised on this with a season of films coinciding with *Sight and Sound* magazine's Greatest Films of All Time poll and a commitment to monthly screenings on 35mm. The centrepiece of our vintage screenings for the year was our Powell and Pressburger retrospective, part of the BFI's nationwide programme, supported by Film Hub Scotland. DCA's programme was highly ambitious, showing more titles than any other venue in Scotland and with special guests and introductions at each. We were delighted to collaborate with Michelle Williams Gamaker, whose exhibition referenced the work of Powell and Pressburger, on two screenings, with other highlights including a panel discussion following *The Red Shoes* with Camilla Baier from Invisible Women film collective and writer and critic Pamela Hutchinson; and an introduction to *I Know Where I'm Going!* from Jonathan Faiers, guest curator at V&A Dundee, to celebrate the end of our Tartan season. With the help of a marketing campaign across print and digital, we were able to exceed our ambitious admissions target for the season.

In January 2024, thanks to project funding and the donation of 20 VR headsets from StoryFutures at Royal Holloway, University of London, we trialled a new programme of Virtual Reality screenings. Over several weeks we offered short bookable sessions for audiences to experience Asif Kapadia's short VR film *Laika*, welcoming 196 people to experience this growing art form.



#DiscoveryFilmFest

Discovery Film Festival

“

Thank you so much for the spotless organisation and kindness of all staff, we really appreciate all the time and effort that has been put into our visit. Looking forward to doing it again next year, pupils and staff loved every minute!

Teacher feedback

”

Discovery Film Festival celebrated its 20th edition in 2023, with a packed programme of the latest international cinema for young audiences, alongside selected festival favourites from the last two decades. We were delighted to see a 28% increase in schools attendance, and our busiest programme of public screenings to date: Happy Birthday Discovery!

Audience development for the festival began in April with the introduction of monthly Discovery Family Film Club screenings. This programme, which also introduced our new Pay What You Can model, included relaxed screenings, and was focused on building awareness and interest in the festival. Of those who attended these screenings, 26% went on to attend the festival.

The festival began with a celebratory gala screening of greatest hits from its popular shorts programme, followed by a birthday party generously sponsored by Fisher and Donaldson, who contributed plentiful birthday cake. We were also pleased to welcome the Lord Provost of Dundee to speak at an opening reception, alongside previous members of our Discovery Young Ambassadors group who spoke about the impact of the festival on their lives and careers.

Alongside our celebrations of the festival's previous hits, this year also featured new activities, including the chance to watch a short film with live electronic music from local musician SHHE, followed by a workshop where families could create their own musical soundscapes for the film.

Films for young people were selected by our Discovery Young Ambassadors, a group of film-loving 15–19 year-olds, who also helped to create their own marketing materials for this year's programme. As ever, our work with schools was supported by a group of dedicated teachers, who helped to draft our curriculum-focused resource packs and advise on programming. We welcomed 39 schools from across Tayside, a 39% increase on the previous year, with subsidised bus travel remaining a key part of the festival offer for schools. Thank you to Lethendy Charitable Trust for their generous support towards our work with schools in the 2024 Festival.

This year we received funding from Film Hub Scotland to expand the festival's tour, offering cinemas from across the UK the chance to book and screen our packages of short films for young audiences. This funding also supported the creation of new promotional materials and a tour-focused activity pack.

In our 20th year we were delighted to see increased press coverage of the festival, and in particular to see it covered in *Sight and Sound* magazine, one of cinema's most prestigious titles.



Photographs of DCA Print Studio
by Erika Stevenson

Print Studio

“

I have absolutely enjoyed my day here, it's fun, a great atmosphere. I learnt a lot. Thank you!

Workshop feedback

”

A busy year in the Print Studio saw new residency opportunities, a significant increase in Registered Users, new collaborations with DCA Exhibitions, and a busy programme of courses and workshops, community projects and more, all supported by Freelands Foundation.

We were delighted to partner with Jerwood Foundation on a series of funded residencies, with artists Dominic McKeown and Hannah Sabapathy the first to be selected for these opportunities. Dominic visited the Print Studio for four weeks in November and finished the residency with a performance in Centrespace; with Hannah's carried out flexibly over a period of several months.

We also welcomed artist Matthew Wilson to the Print Studio from July – August as part of the Royal Scottish Academy's Residencies for Scotland programme, followed by a special Print Studio Tour in September where he gave a behind-the-scenes look at his work to date.

Registered Users of DCA Print Studio are offered the opportunity to sell their work in our Shop, and this year we were pleased to extend this offer to a selling exhibition in Centrespace in November. Forty artists took part in a busy exhibition, resulting in multiple sales of work and an increase in registrations for the studio.

Our Get Creative programme of courses and workshops continues to be popular, with 549 people attending 124 courses across the year. This year we reintroduced letterpress, mono printing and waterless plate lithography courses and introduced new courses in filming and digital editing using Premiere Pro; lino printing on fabric, and intermediate courses in Japanese brush calligraphy and mokulito.

We welcomed community and school groups throughout the year in collaboration with the Learning team, including ST/ART, the Access to Creative Education in Scotland group from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Braeview Academy and Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre.

The development and production of DCA Editions continues to be a major part of the Print Studio's work, and this year we were pleased to work on editions by Saoirse Amira Anis, Rachel Eulena Williams and Michelle Williams Gamaker. We deepened connections with the Exhibitions programme in a number of ways, from working with Michelle Williams Gamaker on artworks that appeared in her exhibition, to the launch of our new production residencies for exhibiting artists at DCA. Artist Sukaina Kubba was the first to make use of this opportunity, with a month-long residency in the studio in January 2024, making works for her upcoming exhibition and exploring a wide range of printmaking techniques, from paper pulp casting to laser engraving and embossing.



Top: Craft Sunday P
photograph by Helen Macdonald

Bottom: Messy Play
Photograph by Erika Stevenson



Learning

“

I love how you can burst out with creation.

Daniel, 10

Very welcoming, fun, creative activity in a safe environment.

Workshop participant

”

We delivered our most extensive programme to date in 2023–24, directly engaging with 8,395 people through teaching, tours, workshops and activities and welcoming a further 3,000 people to our drop-in Create Space. We delivered activity at DCA and in our communities, co-designed a range of projects with our partners and audiences, and advocated for art, culture and creativity.

This breadth and depth of activity was made possible by funding from Creative Scotland’s Recovery Fund for Cultural Organisations, which supported us to continue delivering expanded offsite and community work and more activity for families with children aged 0–3.

The year began with Spring Holiday Pop-up, when the Learning team takes over Gallery 1 for a programme of free activities during the school holidays, combining bookable workshops with drop-in sessions. Displays of work created by community groups throughout the year, together with sessions from our partners Soundplay and a visit from Travelling Gallery, all contributed to a celebratory fortnight. We welcomed over 1,000 visitors, 50% of whom were new to DCA.

We continued to focus on work with families this year, with 8 Family Art Labs linked to our exhibitions programme and 15 public workshops during Discovery Film Festival, welcoming over 480 participants. We distributed 300 of our Family Art Bags with community partners Dundee Bairns and Dundee International Women’s Centre, providing free art materials and creative activities to vulnerable families across Dundee. Our ongoing partnership with Soundplay Projects brought 6 fully accessible interactive digital sound, music and projection sessions to DCA, with closed family activity in the morning for families of children with complex support needs and busy public drop-in sessions each afternoon.

Art at the Start, our award-winning collaborative project with The University of Dundee and NHS Tayside, continued to develop this year. We ran 60 free, public Messy Play sessions for over 700 0–3 year-olds and their caregivers at DCA and in community centres. We were thrilled to appoint an Art Therapist and forged a new partnership with NHS Tayside Infant Mental Health team to pilot and launch a much-needed art therapy service and secure funds for future work, including a new book for expectant families.

We supported teachers and schools via 12 workshops for Discovery Film Festival engaging 300 young people; our annual in-person Pupil Conference Day focused on talking and writing about art, which reached 180 Dundee pupils studying Art at National 5 or above; and responding to many individual requests from schools for visits, workshops and activities.



Spring Holiday Pop-up
Photographs by Erika Stevenson.



Learning

“

It was heartwarming to see parents and little ones bonding over art, creating memories that will last a lifetime. I'm so grateful for this experience!

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre

”

A new project for this year was a pilot project with Braeview High School, in which we ran a two-day course for 25 S3 pupils in partnership with the Print Studio Team. The course was designed to contribute towards an SQA National Unit in Art & Design. Our team continues to welcome a class from Kingspark School for monthly sensory art sessions; and is developing new partnerships with Craigie High Additional Support for Learning team and Deaf Inclusion teams.

We continued our relationships with local organisations including Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre, Dundee International Women's Centre and Options in Life. We also spent the year with Community Learning and Development Central Youth team at Arthurstone Youth Group and consulted with 200 young people to help shape our future programme.

Our creative sessions for adults included 12 of our incredibly popular Craft Sundays, featuring skills and techniques including lampshade-making, macrame, jewellery making and botanical sculpture, with 142 attendees across the year. We also hosted a busy Drop in and Play event, supported Ninja Kiwi, in which local games developers showed new and prototype work, giving audiences the chance to be amongst the first to try new games.

Our long-running ST/ART project, delivered in partnership with Tayside Healthcare Arts Trust, focuses on adults isolated through long-term health conditions. This year we offered 27 workshops through this project, engaging 48 participants, with 80 family members and friends visiting public displays of their artwork.

We could not have delivered this year's Learning activities without additional generous support from trusts and foundations including Hugh Fraser Foundation, Leng Charitable Trust, The Mathew Trust, Misses Barrie Charitable Trust, The Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee and The W M Mann Foundation.



Top: DCA Box Office
Bottom: Zineb Sedira, *Can't You See the Sea Changing?*
Photographs by Erika Stevenson



People and Planet

“

Art environments can sometimes feel pretentious, competitive etc. But at DCA it feels like a safe space to be myself, and I feel encouraged to be the best version of myself.

Staff feedback

I’ve never experienced this across an entire organisation: people are happy, and I look forward to being part of it all.

Staff feedback

”

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Our commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion through striving for social justice continues to inform decision-making and programming in all areas of DCA. This year our programme of anti-racism training continued, with sessions for all staff delivered by BRAP, a charity specialising in equalities training. This included sessions on anti-racism in recruitment for all managers.

Our Paul Hamlyn Foundation-funded partnership project with Collective and LUX Scotland, We Contain Multitudes, is a multi-year project enabling us to develop new commissions with disabled artists, while exploring the ways in which we can better support disabled colleagues and audiences across the organisation and sector. This year we appointed a project steering group, freelance evaluator and researcher, alongside DCA’s project manager, as we prepare to begin the commissioning process with a disabled-led project team.

We remain committed to expanding the range of accessible formats we offer across our programmes and platforms. This year in addition to braille and large print we made more audio description available, switching from one-off audio described events to easily downloadable exhibition tours, available online and via the Bloomberg Connects app. Our new website, launched in February, offers flexible accessibility features for users, with editable fonts and background colour.

Fair Work

At the start of the year, we were pleased to be able to increase pay for all staff, addressing the cost of living crisis, and historic wage stagnation at DCA.

We implemented several new policies designed to ensure DCA remains a welcoming and supportive workplace for all, including our Trans Support Policy and our Menopause Policy. We also offered a range of social, developmental and creative activities for our team, from our annual Development Day to staff screenings and workshops.

Our staff engagement group, with representatives from across the organisation, continues to provide incredibly valuable feedback on the issues, large and small, that make a difference to people’s working lives at DCA. In autumn we issued our first staff survey since the pandemic, and were pleased to see overwhelmingly positive feedback about the experience of working at DCA, scoring 9.1 out of 10 for staff feeling valued, 9.1 for how well our culture matches our values, and 9.4 for having a safe, inclusive and positive workplace.

Environment

Tackling our role in the climate crisis remains a key strategic priority for DCA, so we were pleased to join the Gallery Climate Coalition as an Active Member in March 2024. Joining the GCC was a suggestion from members of our Staff Engagement Group, and was subsequently carried forward by our recently reconvened Green Group, made up of members of all teams and working at all levels of DCA. This group also contributed to the development of a refreshed Environmental Sustainability Policy and Action Plan this year, and continue to review sections of the action plan at each meeting, ensuring we are making progress against our aims.

Another staff-led initiative focuses on active travel, with regular breakfast get-togethers for staff who commute via active travel methods coordinated by our Bicycle User Group.

We continue to work with our landlords Dundee City Council on plans for the capital upgrade of parts of our building, with the goal of reducing our energy emissions.



Top: Made in DCA Print Studio
Bottom: CRAFTED
Photographs by Helen Macdonald



Commercial activity

“

Really grateful for the help of the shop staff in arranging for the artworks to be sent to us and for checking in afterwards to make sure everything arrived safely. We could easily have spent hours browsing the shop selection and our visit was a real highlight on our trip!

Customer feedback

”

In financially challenging times, our ability to earn income is more important than ever.

This year our events and hires activity went from strength to strength, with an 80% increase in income compared to the previous year. We saw a high level of repeat business, alongside successful one-off hires from clients including the Scottish Government, The Scottish Qualifications Authority and the Mental Health Foundation. We also welcomed Collective Architecture as a new long-term tenant, alongside existing tenants Creative Dundee.

We made significant changes to our retail operations this year, changing our staffing structure to increase profitability, without implementing redundancies or reductions to hours. This coincided with the creation of a new trading arm for DCA, allowing us to ensure that all commercial activities reach their full potential.

Our continued focus on work made by registered users of our Print Studio saw a 94% increase in print sales this year, with our Made in DCA Print Studio exhibition in November contributing to this success. We also continued to work on product development, with new launches including Pixel Dundee coasters featuring DCA, silk scarves by Joanna Craig, and a limited edition 25 years of DCA tote bag.

This year we also expanded CRAFTED, our annual Christmas market, running it across two days for the first time and featuring more than 40 makers from across Scotland.

As a result of this work, we saw a 9% year on year increase in sales, and our most profitable year for retail to date.



DCA supporters

DCA would like to thank the many stakeholders, funders, partners, and visitors who have supported us this year. Every contribution, large or small, makes a difference.

Stakeholders & Partners



Supporters

71 Brewing
 Art Fund
 Cycling Scotland
 Diversity Art Forum
 Film Hub Scotland
 Fisher & Donaldson
 Fluxus
 Freelands Foundation
 George & Grace Thomson Trust
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 Jerwood Arts
 Leng Charitable Trust
 The Lethendy Charitable Trust
 The Mathew Trust
 Misses Barrie Charitable Trust
 The Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee
 Ninja Kiwi
 Northwood Charitable Trust
 Paul Hamlyn Foundation
 Tay Charitable Trust
 UK Shared Prosperity Fund
 The W M Mann Foundation
 William S Phillips Fund
 William Syson Foundation

DCA20 Patrons

Tim Allan
 Matthew Cormack
 Siobhan Dundee
 Joe Lafferty
 Danny Parker
 Jacquie and Richard Roberts

Patrons

Ann Bates
 Andrew Black
 Sophie Crichton Stuart
 Sophie and Alexander Lindsay
 Michael Small
 Thomas Veit and Peter Glancy

Friends

Heather Anderson
 John Barnett
 Richard Bowman
 Simon Dessain
 Steve Grimmond
 Michael Hall
 Frank Krikhaar
 Jeanette Paul
 Peter Rowson
 Alastair Stewart
 Kat Small

And those who wish to remain anonymous

Support DCA

DCA has provided a vibrant social and cultural hub in the centre of Dundee since 1999. Our vision is to enrich people's lives through art, culture and creativity. We're only able to do this thanks to the generous support we receive from our donors, funders and visitors.

As a charity all the income we receive goes straight back into enabling audiences, artists and participants to see, experience and create, through our four programme areas: Exhibitions, Cinema, Print and Learning.

Thank you again to all our supporters. If you'd like to find out more about ways to support DCA, please contact Shelley Barclay on shelley.barclay@dca.org.uk or visit our website www.dca.org.uk

Board and Staff

Board

Amira Abougazia, Heather Anderson, Heidi Douglas, Doug Forbes, Ilana Halperin, Scott Mackay, Charlie Malone, Alasdair McGill, John Moir, Toby Paterson, Jacquie Roberts OBE (Chair), Wendy Scullin, Siobhan Tolland, Thomas Veit

Staff

Beth Bate: Director

Jennifer Brand:
Deputy Director and Director of Finance

Jessica Reid:
Deputy Director and Head of External Relations

Shelley Barclay: Development Manager

Isla Valentine Wade: Development Assistant

Vikki Stewart: Executive Administrator

Tiffany Boyle: Head of Exhibitions

Adrian Murray: Exhibitions Manager

Valerie Norris: Exhibitions Coordinator

Kaylyn Hamlyn: Exhibitions Assistant

Lauren La Rose: Project Manager

Anton Beaver, Mickey Fenton, Louise Forbes, Guilia Gentili, Hamish Halley, Marc Johnston, Mickey Mallett, Tanith Marron, Jessie Giovane Staniland:
Senior Gallery Technicians

David Nixon: Head of Cinema

Simon Lewis: Cinema Manager

Amaya Marco:
Cinema Young Audiences Coordinator

Ian Banks: Chief Projectionist

Michael Coull: Cinema Programme Assistant

Cieran McCusker: Projectionist

Marion Ferguson: Head of Print Studio

Annabelle Gralton: Print Studio Technical Assistant

Scott Hudson, Claire McVinnie, Marianne Livingstone, Katie O'Mahoney:
Print Studio Coordinators

Sarah Derrick: Head of Learning

Jude Gove, Scott Hudson, Andrew Low, Lynne McBride:
Learning Coordinators

Vicky Armstrong: Art Therapist

Meg Greenhorn: Communications Manager

Helen Macdonald, Jennifer Phin:
Communications Officers

Freya Goble: Communications Assistant

Christine Sinclair: Visitor Services Manager

Jude Hughes, Marlena Koper: Duty Supervisors

Lynda Rourke: Finance Assistant

Selkie Laggan: Finance Assistant and Visitor Assistant

Faith McDonald: People Manager

Salomeja Arelyte: HR Assistant

Lewis Smith: Commercial and Retail Manager

Joe Kinnear: Hires & Events Coordinator

Stephen Sinclair: Head of Operations

Jayne Bullions: Operations Manager

Jack Dow: Operations Assistant

Sean Fitzgerald, Jackie Handy, Ralph McCann, Ian Stewart:
Facilities Assistants

Alison Anderson, Giorgos Asvestas, Ross Batchelor, India Bruckner, Craig Cargill, Aoife Cawley, Mairi Collins, Jo Delautre, Katherine Donachy, Leo Fahringer, Lauris Fawcett, Mhairi Goldthorp, Stuart Kabler, Amy Kenyon, Elliot Killick, Joung Lee, Blair Leeson, Dana Leslie, Nicola Macrae, Louise McFarlane, Andy McSorley, Elspeth Owen-Hughes, Maddy Pearce, Guendalina Rota, Mauragh Scott, Tilda Watson, Wings Yip, Sandra Zhang:
Visitor Assistants



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