



2020



I wanted to take a moment to reflect on 2020 and to thank our all our artists, curators, partners, donors, funders, staff and board members for standing with us, to keep us going through this incredibly difficult year.

January

Anna Berry's curatorial residency at **Midlands Arts Centre (MAC)** culminated in Art and Social Change: The Disability Arts Movement. This exhibition presented some of the art work, along with objects used by activists, that raised awareness and effected political change for disabled people.

Image: Disabled Artist **Tanya Raabe-Webber** at MAC viewing her paintings of Sir Bert Massie, Nabil Shaban, Deborah Williams and Alan Sutherland. Photo courtesy of MAC.

Click on the photo to see more images from the exhibition.



Find out more about Anna's residency by clicking this link

Aidan Moesby, a Newcastle based artist and curator, joined **Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA)** as our second curatorial resident in DASH's innovative partnership programme to support the career development of Deaf and Disabled Curators.

Front cover image courtesy of Kruse <https://www.krusework.info/>

February

By February there was a buzz happening with Anna Berry's exhibition, one twitter user said it was the most accessible exhibition they had ever seen.

The lovely Esther Cartwright joined DASH as our new Administration and Marketing Assistant. What a month to start a new job!



March

An engaging and thought provoking time was had by all at the **Slaughtering the Sacred Cows** conference, which Anna Berry organised as part of her residency, luckily it was scheduled at the beginning of March, before the dreaded virus shut us all down.

Find out more about the Sacred Cows conference by clicking this link.

On the 17th we took the decision to close the office and start working from home.

April

Was mostly spent getting to grips with home working. Zoom, Zoom, Zoom! Our offer of supporting Disabled artists with mentoring and applications for funding was taken up by many artists.

May

It was a very worrying time for DASH as funders closed to new applications and the future of DASH was looking very uncertain.

It was great to hear that the **'Time Stealers'** had decided to donate 50% of their new charity single 'Count the Rainbows' to DASH, raising £320 and **Shropshire Council** gave us an emergency grant of £1,000.

June and July

Despite the pandemic and the lockdown DASH was busier than ever with artist mentoring, lots of fundraising plans and a new online course **'Art Influencers'** was developed for Young Disabled Artists.



The 12 week course was designed as an introduction to art history and aimed at creatives aged 16 - 30. Participants learnt about key art periods before exploring them in more depth through a weekly art challenge.

Image 'I will build my own asylum and carry it for eternity' by **Nemocura**

DASH receives £16,000 from **Paul Hamlyn Foundation** to help fund our core costs and the increased access costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a real lifeline for DASH.

August

We launched a Crowdfunder through the **Aviva Community Fund**. It was a lot of work and we are indebted to the artists who gave artwork to support the campaign. We want to say a huge thank you to all our generous donors.

DASH receives £25,000 from the **Coronavirus Community Support** funding from **The National Lottery** and the **UK Government**, to help us continue our work supporting Disabled artists during the pandemic.

Image by **gobscure**



September

Even bigger news came in September! DASH was awarded £70,000 from the **Arts Council England Recovery fund**.

Craig Ashley, Chair of DASH said:

“This is fantastic news for DASH and the artists and curators we work with. Our team at DASH have barely stopped this year, responding the challenges brought about by the pandemic and supporting Disabled people who have been disproportionately affected.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Arts Council England, DCMS and HM Treasury”

October

Saw the launch of **Aidan Moesby's** online exhibition '**Thresholds**' an online exhibition that sees three artists react to the current crisis, responding to conflicted and complicated relationships with home.



Image by **Sonia Boué** from the Safe as Houses series

The exhibition, Thresholds, explores artists **Sonia Boué**, **Lindsay Duncanson** and **Catriona Gallagher's** reflections on changing relations to home and their work as artists during the Covid-19 pandemic. The artworks – photographs and films – were specially created for this digital exhibition and are accompanied by a new essay.

Also in October DASH received funding of £30,000 from **Garfield Weston Foundation** ensuring the continued work of DASH supporting Disabled visual artists, nationwide.

November



DASH joins **Plus Tate** network. DASH's Artistic Director, Mike Layward, said:

'To be invited to join the Plus Tate network is an important moment for DASH.

Plus Tate recognises the work that we undertake supporting and commissioning the work of Disabled artists and the support that DASH gives to mainstream galleries to work with Disabled artists. We look forward to developing relationships that are mutually beneficial across the network that will allow us all to grow and diversify as organisations.'

Image is a composite of Disabled Artists' paintings of Mike Layward, created in DASH's HOME workshop programme in 2009.

DASH gets a new donor!

Visability Film Festival are donating 50% of profits from submission fees and the festival event to DASH. DASH filmmakers were also offered 40% off submission fees. Visability Film Festival seek films that are brave and bold in their content and form. They look for eye-opening and original stories, made by teams who are not afraid to push boundaries, and break the mould of what audiences are used to seeing on screen.

Sadly one of our longest serving trustees retired from the board this month. **Yvette Priestley** has served at DASH for 13 years. During her time at DASH Yvette served as our Treasurer, 2007-2009 and our Chair, 2009-2015. She will be missed by us all, but promises to keep in touch.

December

The 'Coffee Collective' met for their second creative coffee morning over Zoom. The group is made up of 11 artists who met through DASH's 2020 online course; 'Art Influencers: A Guided Tour of Art History'. They have continued to stay in touch - sharing and discussing their art work and practises, as well as offering workshops to share creative skills with one another.

At their recent 'winter edition' coffee morning, the group began to explore new ways of collaborating remotely.

Many consider themselves 'outsider artists' - and this only strengthens the diversity of the collective. There is a rich variety of backgrounds and arts practises in a range of fields, including: psychology, new media, painting, creative writing, biochemistry, prosthetics, printmaking, mental health and community, textiles and jewellery-making.. to name just a few!

Image by **Georgia Murphy**, who says "I made this while taking part in DASH arts great 'Art influencers' course, after our session on collage and assemblage. I made it using one of my old lino prints and a mix of words and letters from newspapers and magazines I had lying around - I picked words that spoke to my personal experience during the pandemic but also to wider issues and topics in the news. "



We are incredibly excited to see where the future might lead and how we may be able to support this fabulous disability arts collective post 2020.

Our call for workshop leaders for our new Young Disabled Artists project, **'Worlds Within Worlds'**, also went out this month. The workshops will take place between March and June 2021.



We are also working on some fabulous new projects that will be announced in the New Year, so make sure you sign up to the newsletter by [clicking here](#).

A huge THANK YOU to all our supporters and funders



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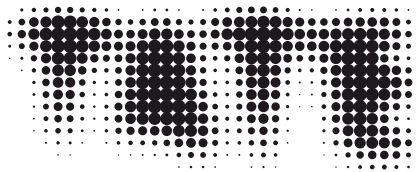


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PLUS TATE NETWORK



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