

THE CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF THE ABERDEEN ARTISTS SOCIETY

1. Name

Aberdeen Artists Society

2. Aims / Purpose of the Society

Aberdeen Artists Society exists to organize exhibitions and other activities in and around the City of Aberdeen and the North East of Scotland.

For nearly 200 years, the Society has provided a unique vehicle through which the work of Artists from Aberdeen and the North East of Scotland, have been exhibited to the public. The Society seeks to collaborate with cultural and developmental organisations within the community in order to nurture and encourage both art and artists from Aberdeen's local and regional populations.

The Society is run on an egalitarian basis. All rights and interests in the Society and any property and funds belonging to the Society are vested in its Members.

3. Membership of the Society

Membership of the Society is open to anyone interested in art. Ordinary Membership allows Artists and others to both benefit from and also contribute to the activities of the Society in nurturing and encouraging local art and artists and indigenous artistic culture within Aberdeen and around North East Scotland. The term "Member" when used in this document refers to any paid up Members of the Society. Members of the Society pay an Ordinary Membership fee and will receive Member discounts on the Society's exhibition submission and hanging fees.

The Society has a simple membership structure in which there are two membership categories: Ordinary and Honorary.

4. Joining the Society

Ordinary membership applications are open to everyone and may be made via a Society membership form and payment of the membership fee (details available on the Society Website).

Membership of either the Society or Council provides no advantage or privileges for the purposes of selection of works for open exhibitions.

5. Leaving the Society

Any Member may leave the Society at any time by writing to the Secretary.

Any Member failing to pay the appropriate annual subscription within 3 months of the annual due date will cease to be a Member of the Society.

The Society may terminate the Membership of any individual, where three quarters of those attending a quorate council meeting agree that it is necessary to do so.

A Council Meeting must be called for the purpose and a decision to terminate Membership must be agreed.

Any person ceasing to be a Member of the Society will have no claim in any of the Society's rights and interests.

6. Honorary Members

Honorary Members may be recommended by the Council of the Society and would be elected at a General Meeting. Honorary Members pay no fees or subscriptions to the Society nor do they have any rights in or liabilities for any of its affairs.

7. Concessionary Ordinary Membership Subscription Rates

A concessionary membership rate is available to individuals who are or who have been enrolled in full or part-time education within the previous 12 months. Membership will be discounted by 50% while individuals meet the above criteria. In all other ways this membership will be regarded as Ordinary membership.

8. Meetings

The Society will hold an Annual General Meeting in the 4th quarter of each year. The Annual General Meeting will elect a Council, and any specific officer roles as required. The Meeting will receive and consider a report on the year's activities and an Abstract of Annual Accounts of the Society. The Constitution and Rules may be altered by a majority of the Members present at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting or any Extra or Special General meetings will be given on the Society's website and by email (where a current email address has been provided) at least seven days prior to the date. At least four current Council members will preside at all meetings of the Society and will appoint one of them-selves to chair the meeting.

The Council, where deemed necessary can call Special General Meetings, for example on receipt of a written requisition to the Secretary signed by no fewer than five Members of the Society and specifying the business to be considered (excluding changes to Constitution or Rules).

The Chair of any General Meeting, Council or its Committees will have a casting vote as well as a deliberate vote.

Voting at all meetings will be by a show of hands unless a majority of Members present determine and agree an alternative method.

9. The Council

The Society is run by a Council made up from the Society's Members. The Council will manage the affairs of the Society in a financially responsible manner, subject to any direction given by the Society.

New Council members can either be co-opted onto the council at any quorate Council meeting or will be elected by show of Members hands at an Annual General Meeting. Elected Council Members will be eligible to serve for 3 consecutive years before requiring re-election. The Council (when quorate) can agree to temporarily fill any officer positions; including the President, Treasurer or Secretary. Such appointments will be subject to ratification by the Society at the next AGM and otherwise may be held until resignation or termination by the Society.

Nominations for election or re-election of Council members, or officer positions at an AGM can be made either in writing or verbally during the election process itself.

Nominee's consent must be evident and written nominations received prior to the AGM. The Council will meet regularly, normally on a monthly basis. Any Council Member failing to attend four consecutive Council meetings without appropriate apologies will be deemed to have stepped down from Council.

The Council will have full power to promote, organise and arrange exhibitions and other activities, calculated to further the interests of the Society.

The Council will have power to review all Subscriptions and Registration Fees each year and make recommendations to be approved by the Society at a General Meeting. Implementation of any changes will not be backdated.

10. Voting

The quorum at the Annual General Meeting will be eight Members.

The quorum at Special General Meetings will be eight Members.

The quorum at Council meetings will be four Members.

The quorum at Committee meetings will be one-half of the appointed Committee.

11. The Secretary

The Secretary will conduct the day-to-day business of the Society under the direction of Council and will keep Minutes of all meetings when required.

12. The Treasurer

The Treasurer will keep all necessary documents and financial records and will submit an audited Abstract of Accounts of the Society to the Annual General Meeting. This Abstract will be for the period 1 October to 30 September, and will be prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis.

Two signatures are required for all Society cheques, irrespective of the amount stated.

The Society's records, kept by the Treasurer, along with all receipts, vouchers and securities, will be examined by the Auditor in time for submission to the Annual General Meeting.

13. The Auditor

The Auditor will be responsible for ensuring that the annual Abstract of Accounts represents a true and fair statement of the Society's financial position.

The Auditor may or may not be a member of the Society.

The offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer may be held jointly if the Society so decides.

14. Committees

The Council may appoint Committees and delegate powers to and appoint the Conveners of such Committees as appropriate.

Selection and Hanging Committees will be appointed by the Society Council as required and will consist of at least six Members and may also include non-member participants or judges, as appropriate. These Committees will have full and exclusive power to accept, hang or reject works submitted for inclusion within the specific exhibition for which they were convened.

15. Dissolution

The Society may be dissolved only by resolution at a Special General Meeting. The resolution must address disposal of any assets held by the Society after all proper debts and liabilities have been satisfied. Society Members must have at least four weeks' notice of this meeting and have the opportunity to state their views. Dissolution of the Society and the disposal of any residual assets will require a 3-quarter majority of those present.

16. Rules

Members must not speak on behalf of Aberdeen Artists Society unless they have explicit approval from the Society Council or President to do so.

There must be no use of Aberdeen Artists Society logo or name without regard to the existing council.

Members must abide by and respect the AAS Constitution.

17. Equal Opportunities

Aberdeen Artists Society is committed to providing equal opportunity to all members and non-members. This means that any members and non-members will have equal access to open exhibition submissions and employment opportunities and as an employee equal access to personal development opportunities.