

CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MIDLAND ARTISTS (as amended Tuesday 19th September 2017)

1. **Name of organisation:** The group shall be called, *The Association of Midland Artists*.

1. **Aims:**

- To promote and encourage the work of members through available means, including exhibitions.
- To encourage the sharing of the experience of being an artist.
- Provide peer support and opportunities to learn from the experience of other artists.
- Provide a route for sharing of information of relevance to artistic practice.
- To use the work and skills of the membership for the benefit of the wider community, for example demonstrations at a community event or raising funds for an agreed charity or local cause.

The Association shall be non-profit making.

2. **Membership.**

2.1 **Membership is open to,**

- Practicing visual artists and makers in any media, usually resident in or having connections with the Midlands. To be known as Exhibiting Members.
- Persons usually resident or having connections with the Midlands, who are interested in the activities of the Association, but are not artists and do not wish to exhibit. To be known as Supporting Members.
- Honorary members may be elected by the Committee at its discretion. To be known as Honorary Members.

2.2 **Membership fees** for the coming year will be set each year at the AGM. Fees are due on or before the 1st January of each year for the year ahead. New members, joining for the first time, on or after 1st June, will only pay half of the standard subscription to cover the period up to 31st December, when a full subscription will be due. Membership fees must be fully paid up to date before work can be considered for exhibition.

2.3 **How to join:** Persons wishing to become members should provide the Membership Secretary/Treasurer with their contact details, brief information about their artistic practice or interest and the appropriate membership fee. The application will then be put to the committee for approval and the applicant informed of the committee's decision. A list of members will be maintained by the Membership Secretary or Treasurer and circulated to other officers of the committee as needed.

2.4 **Termination of membership.** Members whose subscriptions are more than three months in arrears (ie not paid by 1st April) may, at the discretion of the Committee, have their membership terminated forthwith.

Any member bringing the Association into disrepute may have their membership terminated at the discretion of the Committee.

A member may terminate their own membership by stating their wishes in writing to the Chair, Treasurer or Secretary. Refunds of subscriptions will not normally be given.

3. **Equal opportunities:** The Association will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age

4. **Committee and officers:**

- 4.1 **The Association shall be run by a Committee,** The Committee shall consist of a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary and other members up to eight persons in total.

The Committee shall be elected by a ballot of members at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee may co-opt additional members as required. All members of the Committee shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. Three members of the Committee shall comprise a quorum.

- 4.2 **Nominations for the election of Officers and for Committee** members shall be made by the retiring committee and circulated in writing to all members not less than 14 days before the Special or Annual General Meeting. Further nominations may be made by any member before or at the meeting, the consent of the nominee being first obtained. In the situation where nominations exceed committee places, members present at the meeting will be balloted.

- 4.3 In the event that no members or Committee members are willing or able to take on the key offices of Chair and Treasurer, these tasks shall be the collective responsibility of the Committee. A rota, shared office or "acting" roles should be considered. Under all circumstances, however arising, the offices of Treasurer and of Chair shall not be held by the same person at one time.

- 4.4 The Committee may allocate responsibilities and officer posts from amongst its own members, as necessary.

5. **Annual General Meeting (AGM).**

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held in October and no later than the end of the year. The agenda, date, time and venue of the meeting shall be notified to members at least four weeks in advance. 10% of the full membership shall form a quorum.

- 5.2 Any three members of the Committee or five ordinary members of the Association may, at any time, request the Chair to call a Special General Meeting, of which at least 14 days notice, including date, time, venue and an agenda must be given to all members. 10% of the full membership shall form a quorum.

- 5.3 The Association's accounts, together with copies or printouts of the first and last bank statements of the year, from all accounts, shall be available for

inspection by members at the AGM, or, on request, up to 14 days previously. The accounts must be approved at the AGM.

6. Rules of procedure

At meetings decisions will usually be arrived at by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, a vote will be taken. If there are an equal number of votes on each side, the Chair will have an additional casting vote.

7. Finances:

- 7.1** The financial year shall run from 1st August to 31st July.
- 7.2** A bank account shall be maintained on behalf of the Association at a bank to be agreed by the Committee.
- 7.3** Signatories to the account shall be officers of the Association and/or recently retired officers of the Association, as agreed by the Committee.
- 7.4** Cheques shall require two signatories. Where internet or paperless banking is used, this will normally be conducted by the Treasurer, but the Chair shall have access to the account.
- 7.5** Records of income and expenditure shall be maintained by the Treasurer and a financial statement be given at Committee meetings. An annual statement of accounts shall be presented to the AGM.
- 7.6** All money raised by the Association shall be spent solely on the objectives laid out in the Constitution.

8. Exhibitions.

- 8.1** Full members will normally (but not always) have the right to submit work for exhibitions. All submitted work shall go through a selection process. The decision of the Committee and/or exhibition curator shall be final in these matters.
- 8.2** The Association may charge a commission on sales. This will be agreed by the Committee, in line with the circumstances of the particular exhibition. The Association is permitted to use venues which charge a commission on sales and to pass that payment onto the seller.
- 8.3** The Association may charge members for participation in events and exhibitions.
- 8.4** The Committee shall be empowered to invite for exhibition the works of artists who are not members of the Association.

9. Changes to the constitution

Changes to the Constitution can only be made at an AGM or a Special General Meeting. 28 days notice should be given to all members, stating date, time and venue and providing an agenda. Details of proposed changes should be made in writing and provided with the announcement. 20% of the membership shall constitute a quorum. A 2/3 (two thirds) majority is required for change.

10. Dissolution

10.1 A proposal to dissolve the Association must be made by the outgoing committee and a Special General Meeting called, in accordance with the Constitution, to consider this matter.

10.2 The proposal to dissolve the Association should be put to the Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Association and the proposal should be the sole business of the meeting. 25% of the membership shall constitute a quorum. The option shall be given, in this emergency situation, to elect a viable committee to continue the activities of the Association. A 2/3 (two thirds) majority in any vote is required for dissolution. If the conclusion of the meeting is that the Association should be dissolved, any assets, after meeting any liabilities, will be donated to a local, publicly funded organisation which supports and enables the visual arts. This should be for a stated purpose, such as the purchase of a work by a local artist or for a legacy bursary.

This constitution was agreed at the SGM of the Association of Midland Artists held at, St Patrick's Irish Club, Riverside Walk, Adelaide Road, Leamington Spa on Tuesday 19th September 2017.

Name and position *Margaret Condon, Member and Minutes Secretary 2017.*
Signed

Name and position *Jane Williams, Member.*
signed

Name and position *Fiona Metcalfe, Member.*
signed