

GSASA



Guidebook

2024



[An Instruction Manual for the Art School]

Glasgow School of Art Students' Association
Assembly Building, 20 Scott Street, G3 6PE
Instagram: @thegsasa
Website: www.thegsasa.com
CANVAS: canvas.gsa.ac.uk/courses/266
Core office hours are 10am - 4pm.
We look forward to welcoming all students to
(or back to) their building.



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Introductions

Intro From Alicia [President]

Welcome to Glasgow!

I'm sure for many of you it has been a long and winding road to get here, and I hope you are feeling ready to board the chaotic and exhilarating rollercoaster that is art school!

My name is Alicia and I am your Student President and lead representative for this year. I'm a designer and sociologist specialising in creating inclusive, queer spaces, and hopefully you will come along to a few of these at this year's Freshers' Week! As Student President, my job this year is to be an advocate for your voice and ensure that you all feel supported, so if you have any questions, brilliant ideas, or if you're just feeling a bit lost and overwhelmed, my door is always open.

Throughout the year, you'll hear about all of the opportunities to get involved in the Students' Association, where you can join a society, join our board of student trustees or become a liberation rep. We also have lots of extravagant events planned for this year including student markets, a Halloween club night and a brand-new mentoring programme. This guide contains information on so much of what we can offer you.

More than anything, though, we are super excited to have you here! Your energy, enthusiasm and passion will bring new ideas and help spark all types of learning in the coming year. So, explore your new surroundings, whether it's adjusting to the bright green walls of Margaret Macdonald House or foraging for new friends in the wilds of Glasgow's nightlife.

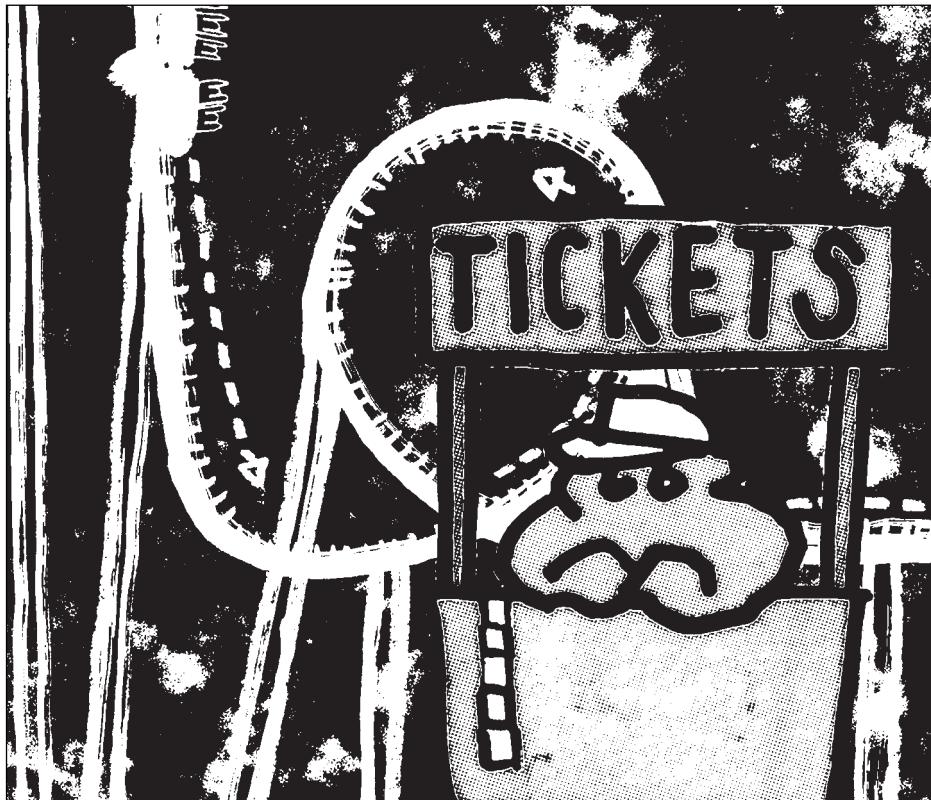
This year will be full of twists and turns, but each and every one of you is here for a reason and

you are definitely up to the challenge. Settling into a new city takes time and sometimes it can feel like you need to be doing everything at once but remember to take time to enjoy the small AND the big moments (because there will be a lot of those in the coming year).

So, jump in, grab something to hold onto and buckle up for the next few years which are going to bring newfound challenges, joy and excitement. I can't wait to meet you all!

Xoxo

Alicia



Rachel [Vice President]



Hi everyone!

My name is RS Dennis, I'm the Vice President of the Students' Association, and I'm afraid no one will talk to me. I have a very off-putting American accent, you see, but I both enjoy and need to talk to students new and old about their goals for the year. The GSASA is student-directed organization, so we take our cues from you on what is important.

There will of course be the mainstays of GSASA social life students know and love: Halloween club night, ceilidhs, small markets throughout the year to sell your works and wares. We're also adding reoccurring drawing workshops to the calendar and putting on the trans healthcare fundraising week for the second year in a row.

But the Students' Association can be more than the events we host. The Assembly building in which it is housed is the social hub of the campus: a great place to make friends in various societies, filled with rooms to reserve for everything from bake sales to exhibitions. If you can't find what you're looking for, anyone can start a new society or host an event with support from our staff.

The building is also an excellent central location for activism and social engagement in the student body, through the Campaigns Committee and other society events. And the Association itself is an excellent source of project funding and other forms of student support.

Also important to a good time at GSA, in my opinion, is getting out into Glasgow. Though the city has strong industrial roots, it is scattered with open green spaces and excellent views. While I wouldn't recommend swimming in the canal, which has a history of being unnaturally warm thanks

to power station overflow, it is lovely to walk along the banks which lead to a park (and a coffee and cake in the West End). Wander through the Botanical Gardens while you're over there and tell me if you can find the Arboretum (which I never have).

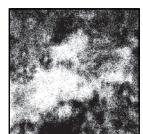
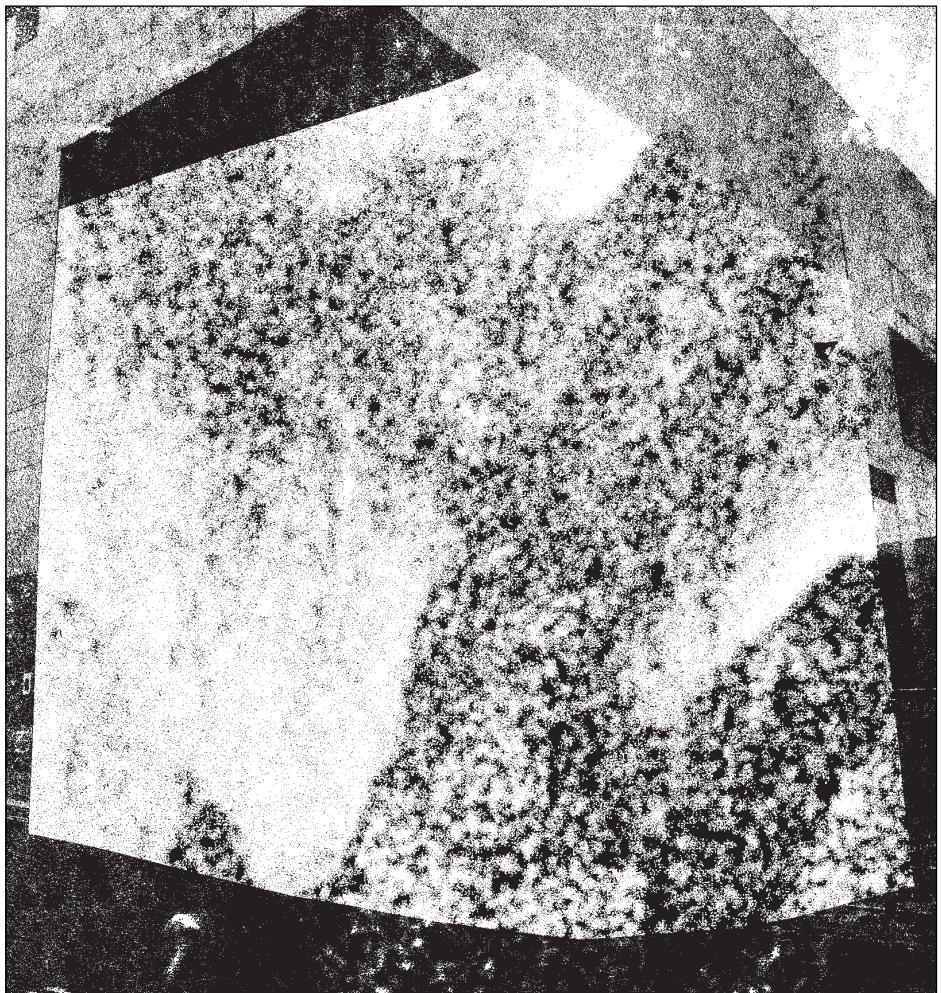
I'm looking forward to meeting you all and helping you make the most of your time at GSA. We do our best to stand with you against any adversary you may encounter.

Come say hi Monday-Friday, 10am - 4pm, when the building is open.

See you soon!

R





Mission Statement

[What we do]

The Glasgow School of Art Students' Association is a charity and independent Students' Association which supports and promotes the interests of its student members at GSA.

The Students' Association is committed to widening access to education and the arts. We believe in offering space and support to all students and members regardless of their resources and experience. The Association is committed to programming and working with organisers who reflect our student communities and their values, concerns and interests. We are particularly committed to offering opportunities dedicated to the personal and professional development of our student members during their time at GSA.

We want everybody to feel welcome in the building. We have an ongoing and self-critical commitment to accessibility, safe(r) spaces and actively opposing all forms of discrimination.

[How we do it]

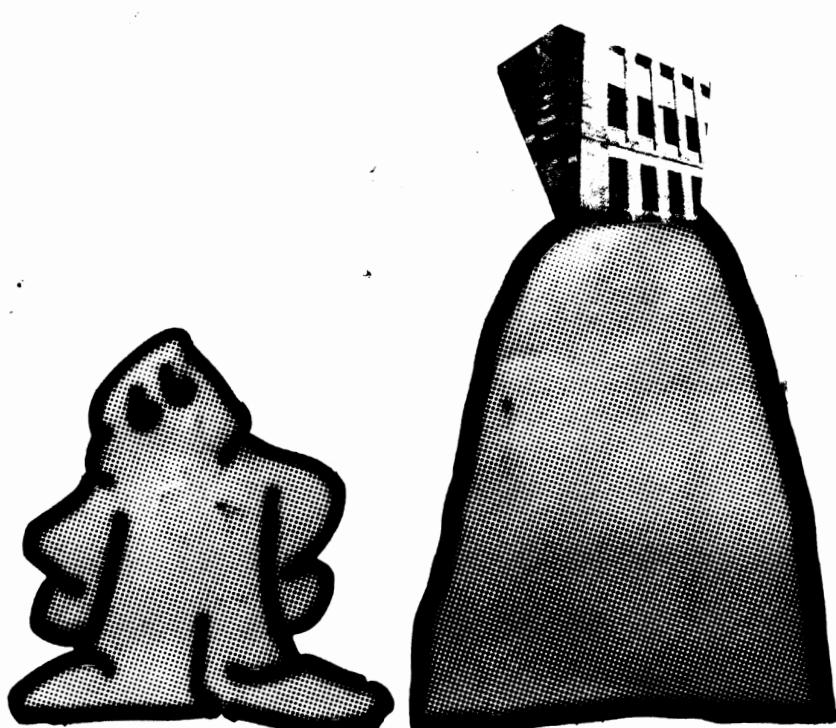
We are a registered Scottish charity and are overseen by a Board of Trustees. Each year we receive a grant from the GSA, and this goes into supporting exhibitions, projects, and events by students and to support an external programme which benefits the students at GSA.

Our programme and much of our funding is overseen by The Student Representative Council (SRC). The SRC is made up of a Campaigns Committee, Funding Committee and Societies Committee. These committees are chaired by the Student President and Vice President and supported by the wider

team at the Students' Association. The SRC also functions as an independent representative body specifically for students at the GSA, capable of running campaigns and supporting student initiatives in GSASA and GSA. Members of the SRC are elected through the class rep system and at meetings of members, such as the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

[Where we do it]

We are located in the Assembly Building at the top of Scott Street. The building includes several project spaces and a large multi-functional Assembly Hall.



Our Trustee Board

Our Trustee Board consists of Sabbatical Officers, elected SRC members and external trustees whose role is to support student trustees and Sabbatical Officers in governing the Association. Members of the SRC can also put themselves forward for election to become Student Trustees of our charity.

Our Charitable Aims

- [01] To promote the welfare and interests of our members (you!)
- [02] To provide a forum for your opinions, an active social space, a network for creative development and a venue for entertainment
- [03] To support the opinions, interests and activities of our members
- [04] To improve services for and in support of our members



The Team

[Sabbatical Team]

We encourage students to continually reimagine our space and unlock its potential for learning and skill sharing.

The Sabbatical Team are your student representatives. Together, they ensure that your voice is heard at GSA and GSASA, and work to support the student body in campaigning and through the Student Representative Council.

Alicia Bickerstaff

a.bickerstaff@gsa.ac.uk

President

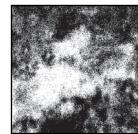
[They/She]

Alicia has been working as Vice President of the Students' Association this past year and is now taking on the exciting challenge of Student President. They have spent the past year organising numerous student events from extravagant club nights to markets and karaoke nights and will bring this same passion and zeal for creating social spaces to the role of Student President.

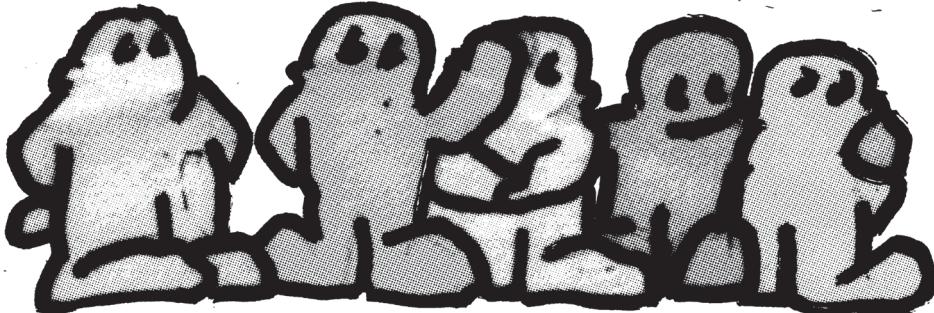
Alicia is an interdisciplinary designer and sociologist specialising in human connection, inclusivity and care and hopes to bring these same ideals to make the Students' Association as safe a space as possible. They studied Design Innovation and Citizenship here at GSA and their multi-disciplinary creative practice and academic research focuses on the creation of safer spaces and disruption of heteronormativity within higher education.

RS Dennis

r.dennis@gsa.ac.uk
Vice President
[They/Them]



R has just completed their Master's in Art Writing in the School of Fine Art. Their project was about homesickness, shame and different ways of presenting text in an exhibition setting. Before going back to school, they worked as a stage manager, which they continued with GSASA during their degree. Their undergraduate degree is in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania. R is a native New Yorker and a big city enthusiast. Come speak to them about theatre, the 2024 US Presidential election, EDI versus DEI, and the trans healthcare fundraiser cabaret.



[GSA Students' Association Staff]

Choterina Freer

c.freer@gsa.ac.uk

Academic & Learning Coordinator
[She/Her]

Choterina facilitates student voice activities, including the election and training of student representatives, and helps students to be partners in the quality of their learning experience. Contact her if you're interested in becoming a representative or running for a Sabbatical Officer position. She is the primary contact for students seeking support with appeals, complaints, or facing disciplinary procedures.

Choterina is a practicing visual artist with a background in fine art higher education and widening participation within art and design. In collaboration with Alicia Bickerstaff, she leads the cross-disciplinary crit series, Assemble, Exchange in the GSASA Project Spaces. If you'd like to show your work or participate in these discussions, don't hesitate to reach out to either of them.

Ewan Summers

e.summers@gsa.ac.uk

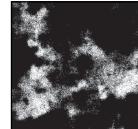
Digital and Communications Coordinator
[He/Him]

Ewan is the Digital and Communications Coordinator for the GSASA. He supports students and groups to manage their online spaces, including the Association's website and Instagram page. Ewan has worked in Communications for the NHS and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority where he used his knowledge to support colleagues

and volunteers to produce effective communications, especially in their digital output. Speak to him if you are looking to promote events or activities linked to the GSASA, or just anything that relates to the Association's digital platforms such as its website, social media channels and Canvas pages.

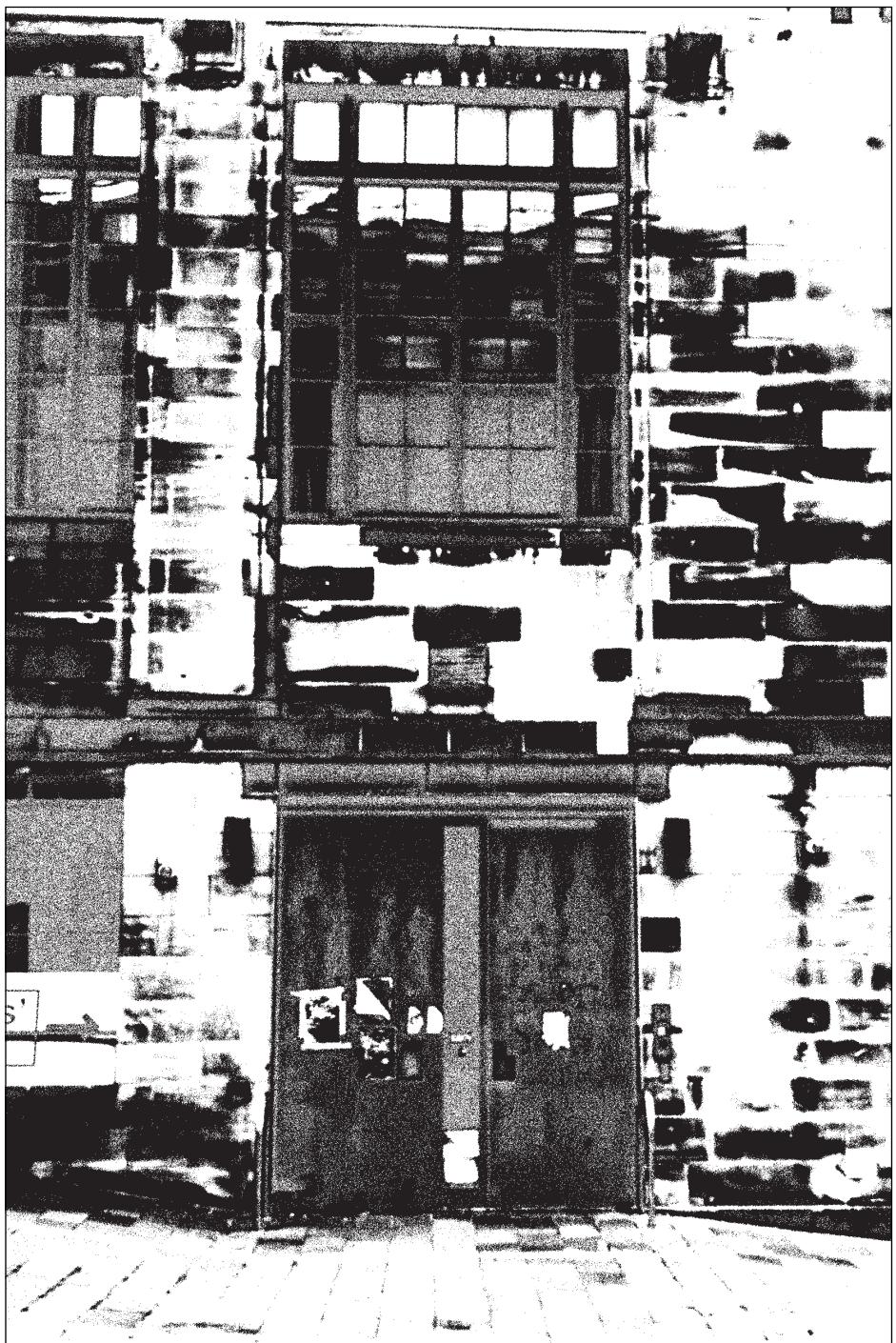
Leilani Rabemananjara

l.rabemananjara@gsa.ac.uk
Community and Societies Coordinator
[She/They]



Leilani is the Community and Societies Coordinator for the Association and focuses on supporting and developing student societies, groups, sports and community. Their creative background includes an undergraduate in Theatre and they are currently active as a Scottish drag artist. Their professional background includes work in other UK Students' Unions and a Master's and background in Community Development and Community Education. They are a good point of contact for students eager to develop their own communities, wanting to work with the local community, or work with community/informal education.

Speak to Leilani about setting up a society, available society funding, boosting engagement with your society and exploring its governance/structure, sports teams and activities, or events that work with the local community or develop student community.



Accessibility Guide

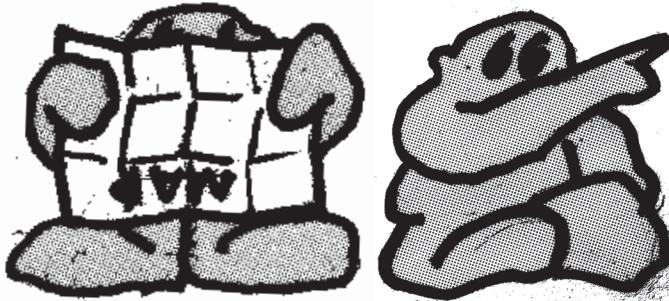
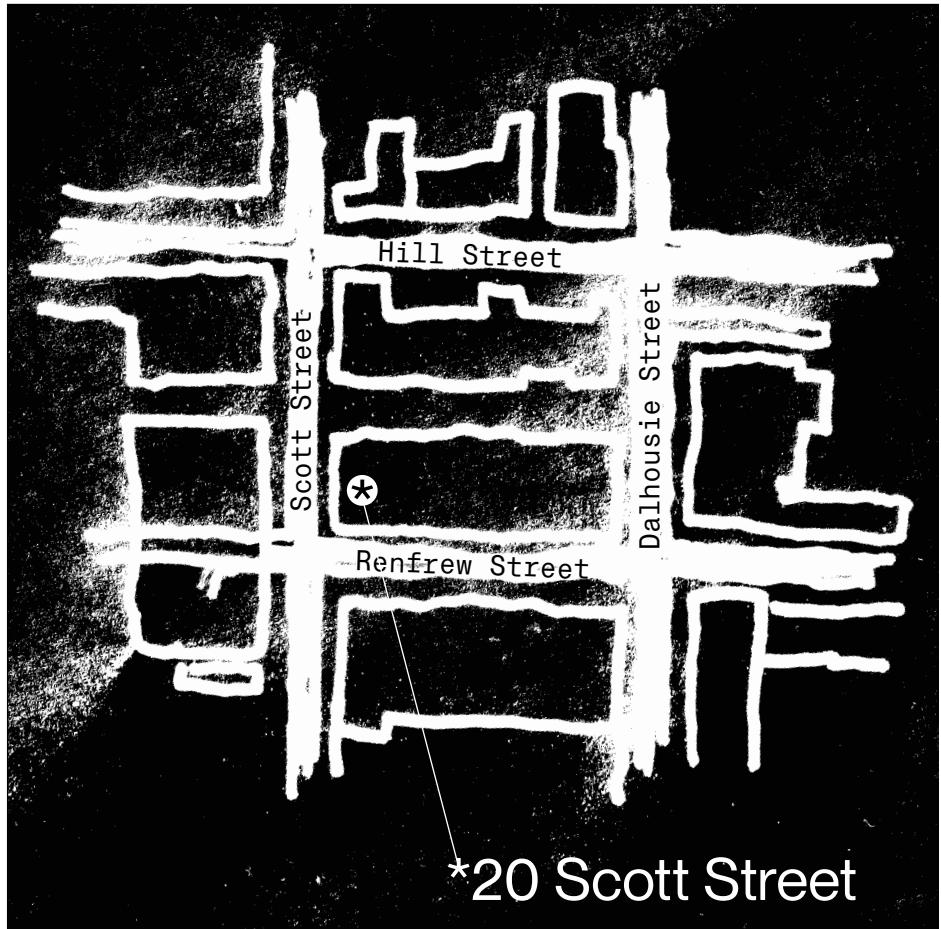
As a Students' Association we are committed to a safe(r) space policy which includes consistently reflecting on the accessibility of our events. We are informed by practitioners such as the Edinburgh-based NEUK collective and Carolyn Lazard's work "Accessibility in the Arts: A Promise and a Practice". We are always open to feedback if there is something you feel needs addressing or improving. We would like to work with you to ensure that we can respond to suggestions and make the GSASA and our events as accessible as possible.

[Location]

The GSASA is located in the Assembly Building at 20 Scott Street. Please see a map of the location on the next page:

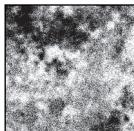
Moving around the Building

- [01] The main door is at pavement level and opens outwards onto Scott Street. It is 117cm/ 46inches wide.
- [02] The building is spread across 4 floors which can be accessed via the lift or central staircase.
- [03] The lift provides access to the basement, ground, first and second floors of the Assembly Building, covering all public areas. The doors of the lift are 90cm/ 35.5inches wide. The lift is 110cm/ 43inches wide by 140cm/ 55inches deep.



Floors

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Basement: | Toilets |
| Ground Floor: | Box Office, GSASA Staff Office, The Vic |
| First Floor: | The Assembly Hall |
| Second Floor: | GSASA staff and Sabbatical Offices, Project Space 1, Project Space 2, Hill52 studio |



Noise levels vary throughout the building. The entrance area and Assembly Hall can be particularly noisy when the building is busy. The building is well-lit with overhead bulb lighting, alongside natural daylight in most rooms. During workshops we will endeavour to respond to the needs of participants to ensure the lighting is suitable and comfortable.

Toilets

- [01] There are toilets located on the basement (-1) and second (2) floors of the building.
- [02] There are gender neutral toilets located on the basement floor - one with urinals and closed stalls and one with closed stalls only - anyone is welcome to use either.
- [03] Sanitary bins are provided in all toilets throughout the building.
- [04] There are sanitary products located in all toilet facilities. Here you can find free tampons and sanitary towels. Students can help by letting staff know if they need restocked in specific locations.
- [05] There is one individual unisex accessible toilet cubicle on the basement floor, and one on the second floor, with level access and handrails. The doors on both are 89cm / 35 inches wide. The transfer space is to the left-hand side and measures 79cm / 31inches in width and 193cm / 76inches in depth.
- [06] There are free condoms and lubricants available outside the toilets for discreet and anonymous collection. We have a variety of packets available including latex and allergy free products.



For Freshers' Events

- [01] If you require an extra ticket at an event for a support worker or carer, please contact the team at:
gsasa@gsa.ac.uk
- [02] We welcome trained assistance dogs. Earplugs are available, please ask a member of GSASA staff.
- [03] We have a box of sensory materials and toys for anyone who requires them. Please ask a member of GSASA staff for these.
- [04] Breaks will be incorporated into longer workshops.
- [05] If you have any questions or additional access needs, please don't hesitate to contact:
gsasa@gsa.ac.uk



The SRC (The Student Representative Council)

The SRC is key to how GSASA represents you - our members - at GSA. We can't function without it, and it can't function without you! The SRC consists of three, student-only committees that help keep this place running.

[Committees]

Campaigns Committee

- [01] They are a creative and representative group comprised of Liberation Officers who push new ideas.
- [02] They oversee a budget of £1000 per semester for campaigns to take place across the academic session.
- [03] They discuss the running of the GSASA, which will be key to developing campaigns and contributing to the Association's business plans in the coming year.
- [04] Their voice is at the forefront of decisions made at the Students' Association.
- [05] They express their opinion on what works well, and what doesn't.

Funding Committee

- [01] They are a supportive group who help find valuable resources for their fellow students' projects.

- [02] They discuss and allocate the funding of £3000 per semester which the Students' Association awards for extracurricular Student Initiated Projects (SIPs).
- [03] They help ensure that the Students' Association is being fair in supporting students' practice and personal development.
- [04] They make amendments to funding processes to make sure these processes are as fair and practical as possible.

Societies Committee

- [01] They are the decision-making group in relation to the activities and funds of the student groups and societies at GSASA.
- [02] They are a sociable group who bring people and projects together.
- [03] They are a space for societies and student groups to share their recent and upcoming activity, collaborate, and seek a supportive environment from other students, sabbatical officers, or GSASA staff.
- [04] They work to approve new societies and to monitor and approve funding for existing societies.

[Whole SRC Meetings]

There are at least three meetings of all three SRC committees each year. These are formal meetings for the President and Vice President to report back to all members on their core activities in the first semester and priorities going forward, and for Council members to raise important issues pertaining to the Association and its activities. For SRC members who wish to stand for election to the GSASA Board of Trustees, the first meeting is a chance to make your case and vote for members to join the Board.

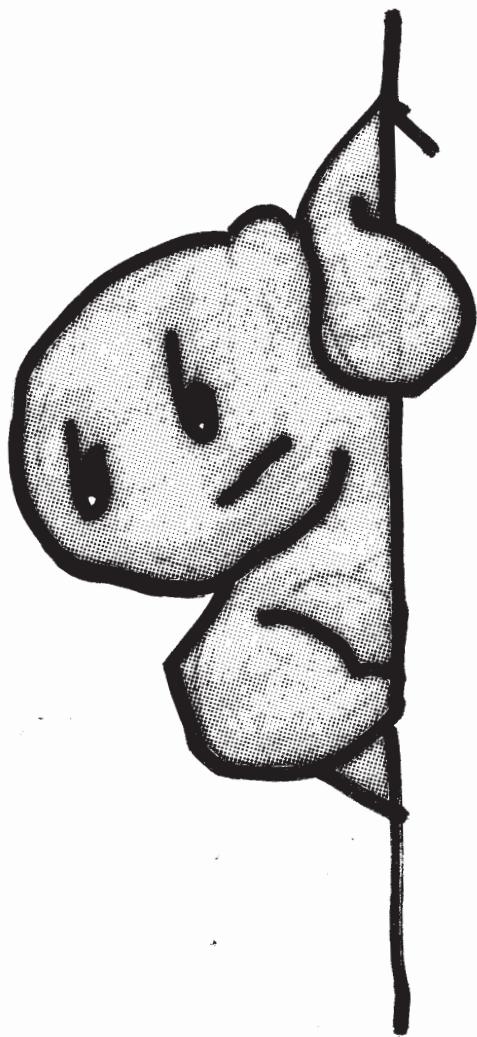
[How to be Elected]

Being elected as a class rep automatically elects you to the SRC. Class rep elections happen in class at the beginning of each academic year and are facilitated by programme leaders. You can find out more about this in the next section on Student Voice.

Any student, rep or not, can be elected to an SRC committee. Just nominate yourself online starting on the Monday 16th September. Nominations will stay open until the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the Wednesday 9th October. If you haven't nominated yourself online by then, you'll have the chance to nominate yourself in person at the AGM. Final nominees will be announced at the AGM, and voting will take place online to ensure all our members have a say.

You can also join the SRC by applying to be a Liberation Officer to participate in the Campaigns Committee. You can find out more about our Liberation Officers later in this guide. Come find us at the Freshers' Fair on Wednesday 18th September to ask us any questions!

Class Representatives & School Officers



The student representative system has been designed by GSASA and GSA to ensure as many decisions as possible made at GSA are informed by student needs. You are central to making this system work and if you become a rep, you will be championing for student opinions to GSA staff. Class reps and School Officers make up the student voice ecosystem here at GSA.

[Class Reps]

Class Reps are elected by students as a class, and act as a spokesperson for the students in their class and year group. They collate and communicate feedback on issues affecting their programme and ensure that student concerns large and small are acted upon by the school. The role of the class rep is vital for ensuring that your learning experiences are of a high standard at the school, and they play a key role in ensuring that student views are acted upon.

Class Reps are automatically part of the SRC and participate in decision making on SRC committees. Through this, they can get involved in all of the exciting programming and funding opportunities as well as collaborative projects and campaigns happening at the Students' Association this year. Putting yourself forward to be a Class Rep is a great way to learn key skills like communication, collaboration and being unafraid to voice your opinion.

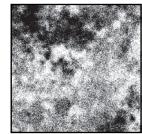
[Lead Reps]

The Lead Rep role is an appointed position that represents an entire school - Mackintosh School of Architecture, School of Design, School of Fine Art, School of Innovation and Technology, or Postgraduate Research - rather than a single class. School Officers play a vital role in driving forward some of the most pressing issues that affect students across all years and specialisms in their school.

They do this by attending regular meetings and keeping in contact with class representatives and staff members within the school. These meetings

include their school's Board of Studies, where they are the key representative of students' interests and concerns and actively participate in improvements to student learning across the school. They also work on projects that improve student representation at GSA and are encouraged to participate in shaping key projects concerning student learning and student partnership at the school. As with Class Reps, serving as a Lead Rep provides students with experience, professional skills and the opportunity to actively improve GSA as a learning environment. To reflect the level of responsibility and time that comes with this role, this is a salaried position. You can apply for these roles via the GSA website (in the "Work For Us" section), the closing date is 26th September.

[Student Representation on GSA Committees]



Class Reps and School Officers can nominate themselves to join the following GSA committees as a student representative:

- [01] Learning and Teaching Group
- [02] Student Partnership Group
- [03] Education Committee
- [04] Programme Amendment and Course Approval and Amendment Group (PACAAG)
- [05] Learning and Teaching Group
- [06] Class Reps also have the opportunity to join the Student Partnership Group

All these committees and groups have the responsibility of the oversight and delivery of key projects and processes concerning learning and teaching at GSA. Having student voices on these committees is vital and helps to ensure student opinion is heard across the School.

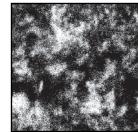
[Academic Council]

At the start of each academic year, GSASA and GSA hold elections for student representatives on Academic Council. Academic Council is the most senior academic body in the school and reports directly to the GSA's Board of Governors. Currently, there is space for up to six student representatives (including GSASA's two sabbatical officers). Elections are held in September and October at the start of the academic year.





[Annual General Meeting]



Assembly Building
Wednesday 9th October

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is where all members of the Students' Association assemble to discuss the ins and outs of the GSASA. It is where you get the chance to hear directly from your Sabbatical Officers and receive insight into what we have planned for the Association in the upcoming year.

This year the AGM will be held in-person in the Assembly Building at 20 Scott Street - come along and shape the future of your Students' Association. We will also be introducing our Board of Trustees and giving a peek behind the financial curtain with a focus on event pricing. This is the space for a broad open discussion where you are encouraged to feed back on your experiences, giving us valuable insight into improving the functions of the Association and better supporting your experience at the GSA. If you have a topic you'd like to raise at this year's AGM, please contact Alicia and/or R directly.

The AGM is the first step in being part of the discussion on the Assembly Building, and we want you to understand the power you have in deciding the future of your Students' Association.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

[Sabbatical Elections]

Each spring, members of GSASA (including you!) will choose the Student President and Vice President for the upcoming academic year. Take the time to vote for your representatives – they're essential to making sure the student voice is heard!

Any student can run for one of the two sabbatical positions: Student President or Vice President. Both promote involvement in the Students' Association and develop student-led projects and structures, including the SRC. The Student President works with GSA and the Students' Association for the benefit of students throughout the school. They influence learning and teaching strategy and student welfare matters, develop the Class Officer and Lead Rep systems, and campaign for issues that matter to students.

The Vice President responds to emerging needs and issues raised by the student body through the programming of social, learning, and professional practice events and projects. They also lead on the Degree Show celebrations and work with students to develop student-led events and projects.

If you are a current student and a member of GSASA, you can stand for a position and vote in the election! Elections will be held just before spring break to allow for nominees to concentrate on their final submissions. Campaigns and opportunities to run are publicised to the student body well in advance via email, our website, and Canvas.

Good luck!



‘GSA Palestinian Society’ by Maria Howard

'Art is not neutral. It either upholds or disrupts the status quo, advancing or regressing justice.'
-adrienne maree brown, Emergent Strategy

SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE



GSASA Palestine Solidarity Society is open to any student or staff member who stands with Palestine and against Zionism.

Over the last year we have collected more than 350 signatures on our open letter to GSA management, made our voices heard in meetings about GSA's investment policy, disrupted board meetings, held workshops and screenings, and raised funds for people in Gaza.

This semester, we will be meeting regularly to discuss how we can support Palestinian liberation and are open to any ideas you may have. We hope to host events, fundraisers and reading groups in the coming months. We are looking for students to take the lead and participate in all aspects of organising, including banner making, flyering, holding fundraisers and screenings, research, letter writing, admin and social media.

W

e are also keen to make links with other student groups across the city.

WE CALL ON GSA TO STAND AGAINST GENOCIDE

We demand that the art school divests its funds from companies complicit with Israel.

GSA have repeatedly ignored calls to issue a statement of solidarity with Palestine and to divest from companies complicit in Israel's genocide. This goes against the institution's 'Framework for Environmental and Social Justice' of which the five pillars include 'Working for climate and social justice' and 'Creating

a fair and just institution'. This failure to act also negates GSA's commitment to 'decolonising the curriculum'.

As a collective of staff and students at GSA we call on the art school to:

- [01] Make a statement of solidarity with Palestine, as they did with Ukraine
- [02] Divest from funds managed by Bailie Gifford, an Edinburgh-based asset management firm with over £10 billion of investments in corporations with links to Israel's security apparatus as well as settlements in the West Bank, illegal under international law.
- [03] Divest from Amazon, Apple and Microsoft - companies that provide services to the Israeli military and government, among many other unethical businesses and investment funds.
- [04] Sign the PACBI pledge, which advocates for a boycott of Israeli academic and cultural Institutions

To echo the call of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement: "it is time for the entirety of the academic world to take urgent action to stop Israel's genocide in Gaza and its ongoing scholasticide against all Palestinians. If not now, when?'

We will be meeting at the Vic on Tuesday 24 September at 5pm. All welcome!

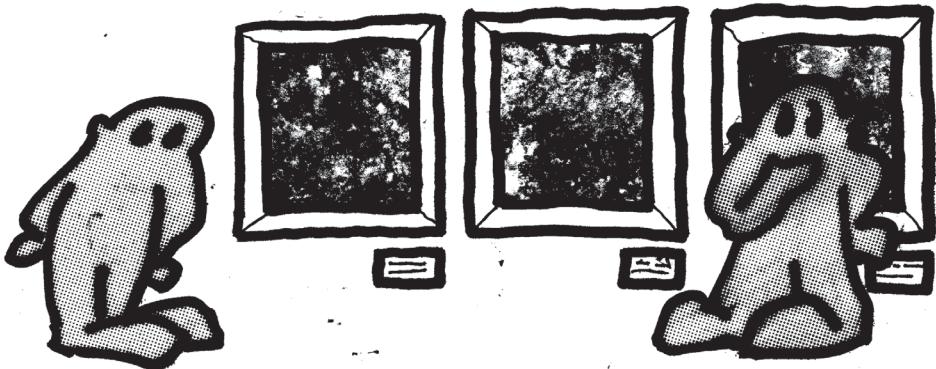
If you're keen to get involved please contact us at gsapalestinesolidarity@gmail.com or find us on [instagram @gsa.palestinesolidaritysociety.](https://www.instagram.com/gsa.palestinesolidaritysociety/)

By Maria Howard



SA
DIVEST
NOW

Project Spaces



The project spaces are two bookable rooms in the Assembly Building that GSA students can use for exhibitions, workshops, society meetings, and other extracurricular and community-building activities.

We open applications to book the project spaces near the beginning of each semester, with opening and closing dates posted on our website. Applications go to a student-led panel, who will notify the successful applicants and finalise the project space schedule. You can find more information such as photos and dimensions, rules for project space use, and application forms on our website.

GSASA-affiliated societies will have a separate open call for them specifically. Simply contact our Societies and Communities Coordinator Leilani (l.rabemananjara@gsa.ac.uk) to discuss your ideas and book a space.

Student Advocacy at GSASA

The student engagement team at GSASA are here to support you during your studies and can provide independent advice. If you need to make an academic appeal, want to raise a complaint (formal or informal) because of something that has happened at the school, find yourself involved in student conduct procedures, we can support you through these processes.

We advise students to contact us at an early stage, but we can support you at any time during the process. However or whenever you contact us, we are independent from GSA and our role is to advocate for you with the school.

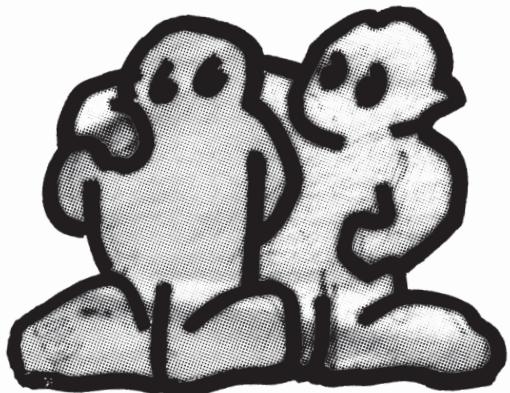
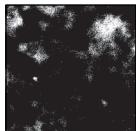
The student engagement team can support you through complaints, appeals, and disciplinary proceedings by:

- [01] Explaining processes and what to expect
- [02] Helping you to fill out forms and submit supporting evidence
- [03] Advising you on courses of action
- [04] Accompanying you to meetings with relevant staff or with a complaints or disciplinary investigator
- [05] Following up with you to help you understand outcomes and your next steps, if necessary.

If you think you would like our support, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Confidentiality

We take your confidentiality very seriously and won't share your case with anyone outside the student engagement team. We may share information between team members for the purposes of managing caseload and conflicts of interest.



Funding Committee For Student Projects



The Students' Association has £3000 to allocate each semester towards student-initiated projects and programming that fall outside of the curriculum.

We run an open call for applications three times a year. Drop-in advice sessions are available in advance of each deadline should you need a hand with your application. These are led by staff within the Association. Application forms for any upcoming open calls can be downloaded from our website and canvas pages. Project funding applications are then reviewed by our SRC Funding Committee, meaning that decision-making on applications is led and managed by students.

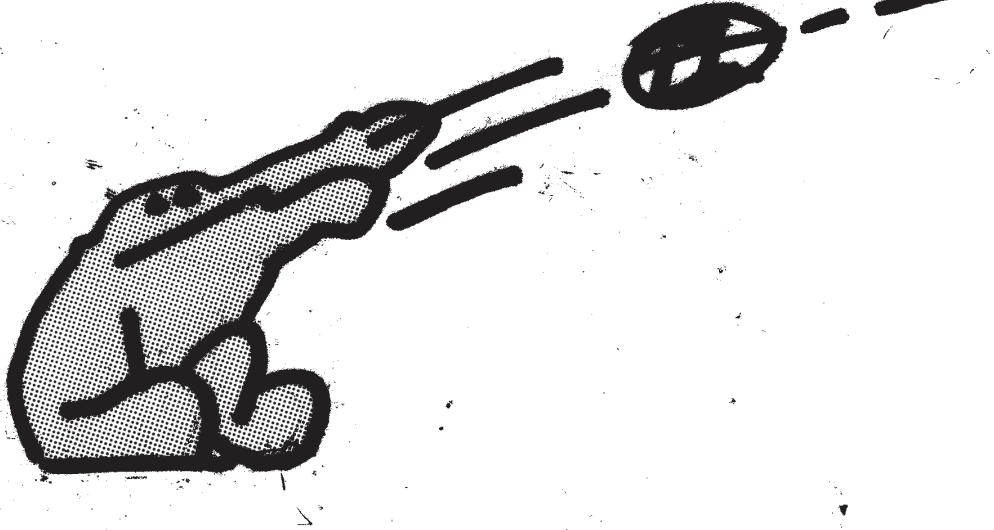
The Funding Committee is comprised of class reps and members who stand and are elected during the Annual General Meeting and any other meetings of members throughout the course of the year. Please get in touch with Alicia Bickerstaff, your Student President and Chair of the Funding Committee, to find out more about members meetings.

Being part of the Funding Committee is a great opportunity for students who want to develop professional skills around application writing, collaboration, network building, and decision making.

Applications are sent at least two weeks in advance of the deadline and will be available via your student email, our website, and canvas. If you are interested in knowing more about application writing or learning about how funding processes work, get in touch with us via email at gsasa@gsa.ac.uk. Please keep an eye on your emails for confirmation of deadlines.



Student Societies & Sports Clubs



Student societies, collectives, and sports clubs are an amazing way to create and feel part of community as part of your GSA experience beyond the limits of your studies and the curriculum. They are places for creating (sometimes lifelong!) friendships, community, a sense of belonging, a place for sharing ideas and developing projects, gaining and practicing new skills for life after your studies, employment and about putting your skills often to the service of others and bigger things.

All student societies, collectives and sports clubs are student-led and student organised but are part of the Students' Association - supported by Students' Association staff, the Associations' resources, and funding. Societies run as groups that are both autonomous in how they operate but also sit under the guidance, and within the larger community of, the Students' Association.

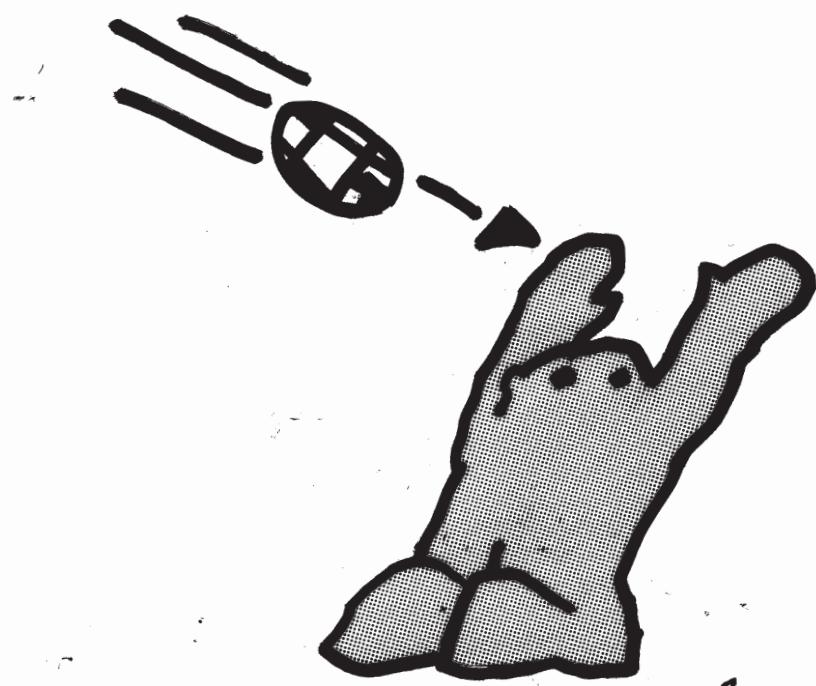
Societies can be based around a common interest/activity, a common identity, solving a common problem, and can be a space of learning, socialising or campaigning. They have the potential to address a specific concern in, or beyond, the curriculum, or they could even speak to GSA students' political interests - locally or nationally.

[Societies/Clubs To Expect]

Examples of societies that existed last academic year which may continue this year include:

- [01] Hill52 (Radio Society)
- [02] StrikaFC (Football Society)
- [03] Yoga Society
- [04] MacIntosh Architectural Students Society (MASS)
- [05] Christian Union (CU)
- [06] Set the Zine - a zine and publishing society
- [07] Climbing Society
- [08] Digital Assets Society/"Rule of 3D"
- [09] GSA Gallery Society
- [10] GSA Performing Arts Society
- [11] GRUPA (Central and Eastern European society);
- [12] Copy Magazine; Free Writing Society
- [13] Chinese Student Society (GSACSS)
- [14] Re:PRESENT
- [15] Green Spaces
- [16] Palestinian Solidarity Society

- [17] Glasgow School of Art Muslim Association
- [18] Film Society - cinema related society
- [19] GSA Indian Society
- [20] Volleyball Society



[Benefits]

What are the benefits of setting up a society or student group at GSASA?

- [01] Gain transferable skills for future life experiences or employment.
- [02] Access funding each semester for items that could support your society's activity - from pitch hire, venue hire, books, merchandise, or whatever is needed! Up to £250 can be requested per semester.
- [03] Access to the Societies Committee, a twice-yearly meeting which is a collaborative space for connecting with other societies and student groups for joint projects.
- [04] Specialist staff support and advice through the Community and Societies Coordinator.
Want to set up a new society? Get support with wherever your idea is at!

To explore setting up a new society contact the Community and Societies Coordinator, Leilani Rabemananjara (l.rabemananjara@gsa.ac.uk). They are happy to help regardless of where you're at with planning your society, whether you have the spark of an idea or a fully formed vision with like-minded students - societies can and do form out of both.

[Societies Committee]

All societies at GSASA are automatically part of a community called Societies Committee.

The Societies Committee is comprised of sports club and society groups that are represented, at minimum, by one of their committee members. Meetings of the committee happen twice per academic year.

Societies Committee exists as a space for societies to reflect on and share their recent activities and updates, creating a space for collaboration and support through other students, societies, elected sabbatical officers and GSASA staff.

We will also be launching a societies WhatsApp group chat this year where societies can connect and collaborate with one another - this will be advertised at the Freshers' Fair.

The Societies Committee also has a significant role in approving the affiliation of new societies and reviewing funding that has been spent by different societies, meaning that the decision-making and running of societies at GSASA is brought into the hands of those involved in them.

Please get in touch with Student President Alicia Bickerstaff (a.bickerstaff@gsa.ac.uk) to find out more about Societies Committee. While this meeting will be mostly of interest to students leading or involved with society activity, it is open to all students. Please keep an eye on your emails for updates on committee dates.



Liberation Officers



Liberation Officer roles are:

- [01] A support network
- [02] A crucial role within the campaigns committee
- [03] A space to facilitate liberation-based organising that is intersectional and tangible

As part of this role, you will work with the Vice President and GSASA to help shape the Campaigns Committee - with other students - and to lead on intersectional, playful, and informed organising. You will receive a £200 honorarium per semester for semesters one and two from GSASA and receive advice and support throughout the year from the Student Engagement Team.

Liberation Officers will be selected by the Sabbatical Officers based on an application form which is available on Canvas. The form will be open from September 16th to October 7th, with the roles announced at the AGM (Annual General Meeting) on October 9th.

Specific roles on offer

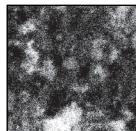
- [01] Disability Officer
- [02] Queer Officer
- [03] Gender Equality Officer
- [04] POC Officer
- [05] Environmental Officer

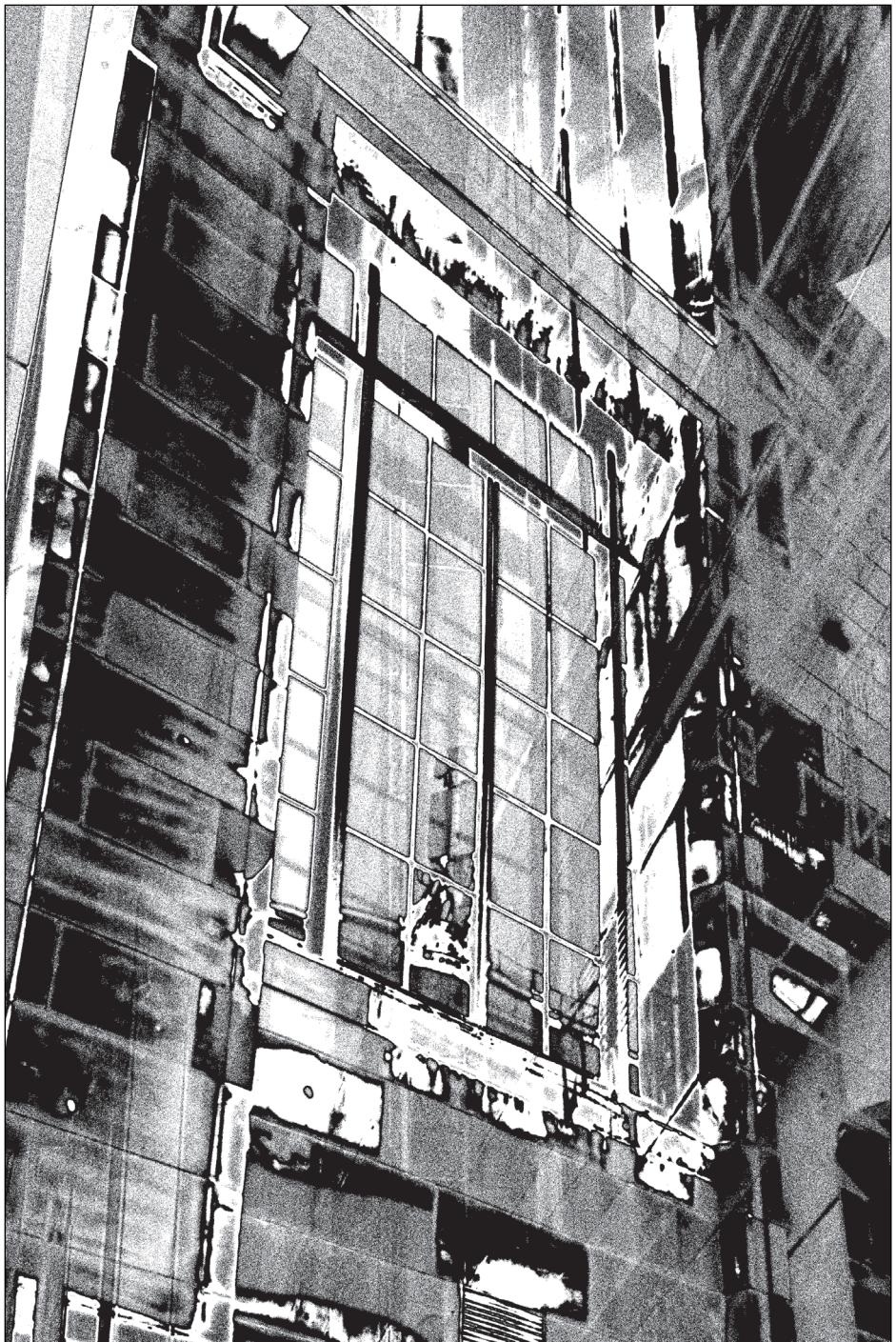
[06] Disability Officer

[07] Queer Officer

There will be one student chosen for each position.

Please get in touch with RS Dennis (r.dennis@gsa.ac.uk), your Vice-President, to find out more about the Liberation Officer roles.





Campaigns Committee



The Campaigns Committee leads the development of campaigns that support the student experience at GSASA and GSA. It is a space for supporting liberation issues and collaborative campaigning around specific issues - with the support mechanisms (including money) and scope to do so. We will imagine, develop, and campaign around key issues that matter to students, such as the cost-of-living crisis, climate justice, and institutional divestment and change. We want everyone to come along with their own ideas!

For example, last year we facilitated trans healthcare fundraising events and workshops, which included creative workshops, philosophical discussion groups, a queer trivia pub quiz, and culminated in a cabaret. This committee is all about a multiplicity of voices and actions coming together, so the more attendees the better - we need your input.

There are three formal dates for the committee to meet, but we will have more gatherings to plan, act, and imagine beyond these. We send out emails throughout the year to let you know when this is happening.

As part of the SRC, the committee is made up of the Liberation Officers, elected Class Reps, and any other student who wishes to be a member.

Nice and inviting! Please get in touch with Vice President RS Dennis (r.dennis@gsa.ac.uk) to find out more or come and see the Students' Association booth at the Freshers' Fair.

See you on October 14th!

Crucially, these meetings are open to all students.



Creative Connections Student Mentoring Program

Creative Connections is a mentorship and knowledge exchange programme aimed at connecting current and incoming students here at GSA! All students are welcome and we will be running training and socials throughout the year to connect students across different schools and years, so sign up now to avoid missing out!

[Who is this programme for?]

Anyone! You can sign up as either a mentor (current student) or mentee (incoming student) and you will be matched up in pairs or trios with students with similar interests and experiences. This program aims to promote cross-school collaboration and match students based on creative practices and life experiences, so you may be matched with peers from outside of your department.

[Why should I sign up?]

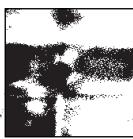
This is a great opportunity to meet other students outside your programme and get to know students who have been in Glasgow for a while. We will be hosting lots of exciting and educational events throughout which will be available to students signed up for the scheme. Taking part in this scheme can also be added to your CV as an example of tutoring/coaching/mentoring which will be helpful for getting jobs after university.

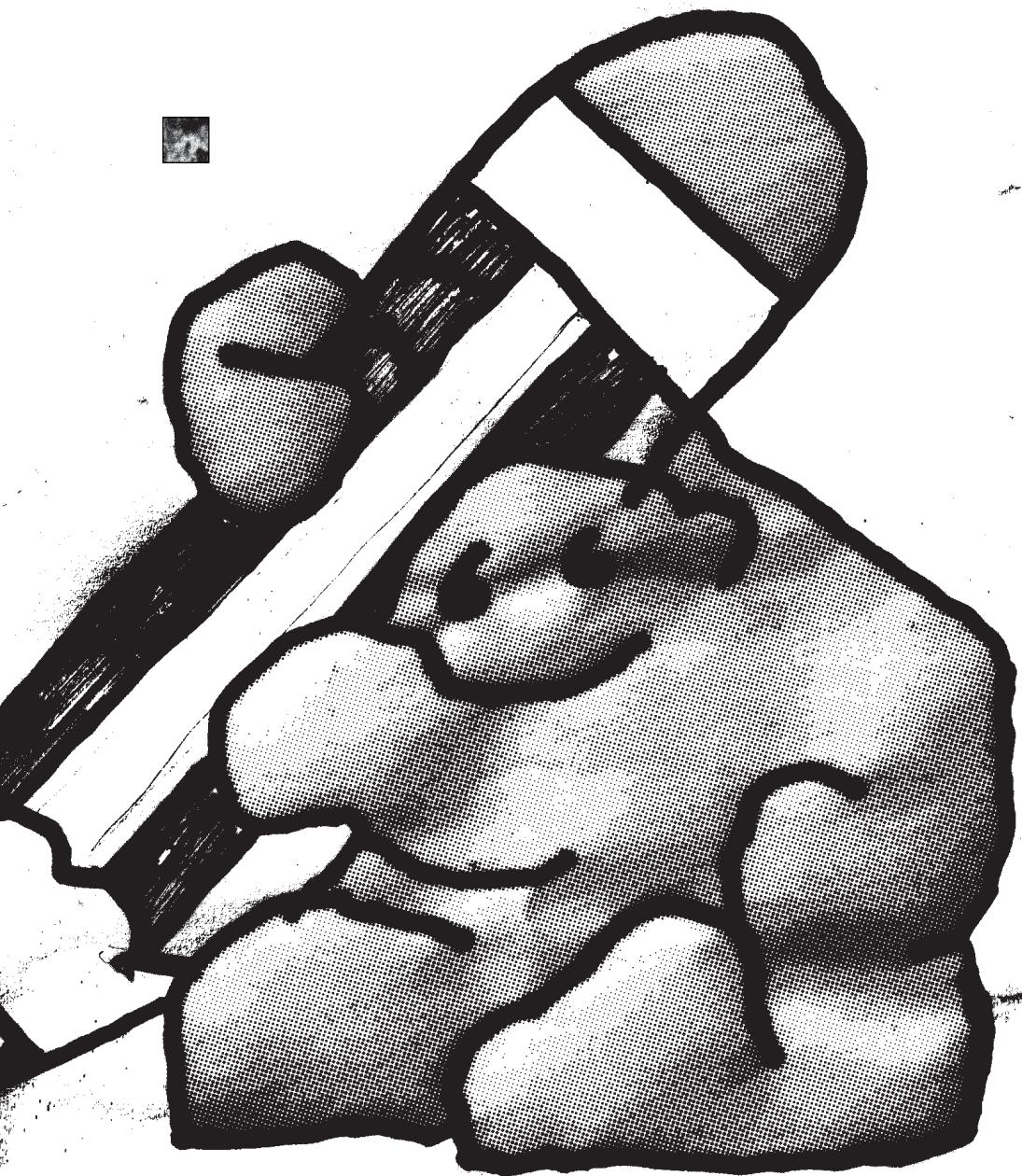
[Educational & Social Opportunities]

There will be an hour-long training session for mentors taking part in the scheme, this will be followed by a social event where which will be a chance for you to get to know the student you have been paired with!

[How to sign up]

Head to: <https://www.thegsasa.com/>
to find the digital sign-up forms.





‘Whatever Could Be Will Be’ by Jessica Higgins

Just over ten years ago, while in my third year of Sculpture and Environmental Art, I submitted a workshop proposal to a programme of events for a new alternative art school. The alternative art school was a going concern at the time among many individuals and groups in contact with institutions such as these around the world. I think its spirit lives on in hushed rumours and ruptures of dissent, manifesting often in smaller, localised actions with less totalising ambitions to produce anew the entire fabric of the place – although such ambition would still, imho, be welcome. We could call these ruptures a counter-life of the art school. Necessarily social, they pop up in after school clubs; teach-outs; organising efforts for Palestinian liberation, fossil fuel divestment, trans healthcare and ongoing de/anti-colonial work; group shows; temporary galleries; short lived magazines; pints of cheap lager at one of the local bars (Nico's, 375-379 Sauchiehall Street); printer hacks; improv bands; dance groups and so on.

Chances are that during your time at this particular institution – which might be one year, or two, three or four, since the contemporary art school, like any good business, offers many options – there might come a time you also look for the alternatives, to which I'd like to submit my dusty proposal, slightly abridged:

“Method acting” workshop

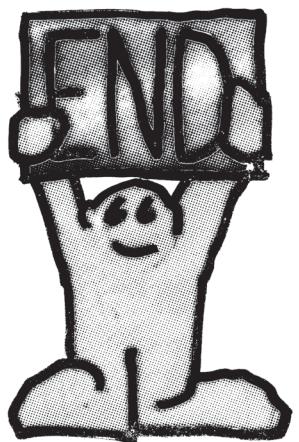
- [01] Introduce participants to a history of method acting, then instruct them to form a queue at the refreshment table. After three and a half minutes ask them to disperse and act as though they're waiting for something.
- [02] Everyone should write down pointers that would assist another person in acting as them. Think about things like: “What

happens to your voice when you lie?" or "Do you worry about measuring your own satisfaction?" (full list of questions available on request). Instructions are distributed among the group at random and participants spend half an hour trying to find themselves.

[03] In groups of three develop a one minute scene. Remember to continue acting as the person from the previous exercise but the script is fictional, so make new characters using the skills of the method. For example: Wendy in everyday life acts as Lucy acting as a woman who finds her house burning down. Perform these scenes for the rest of the group.

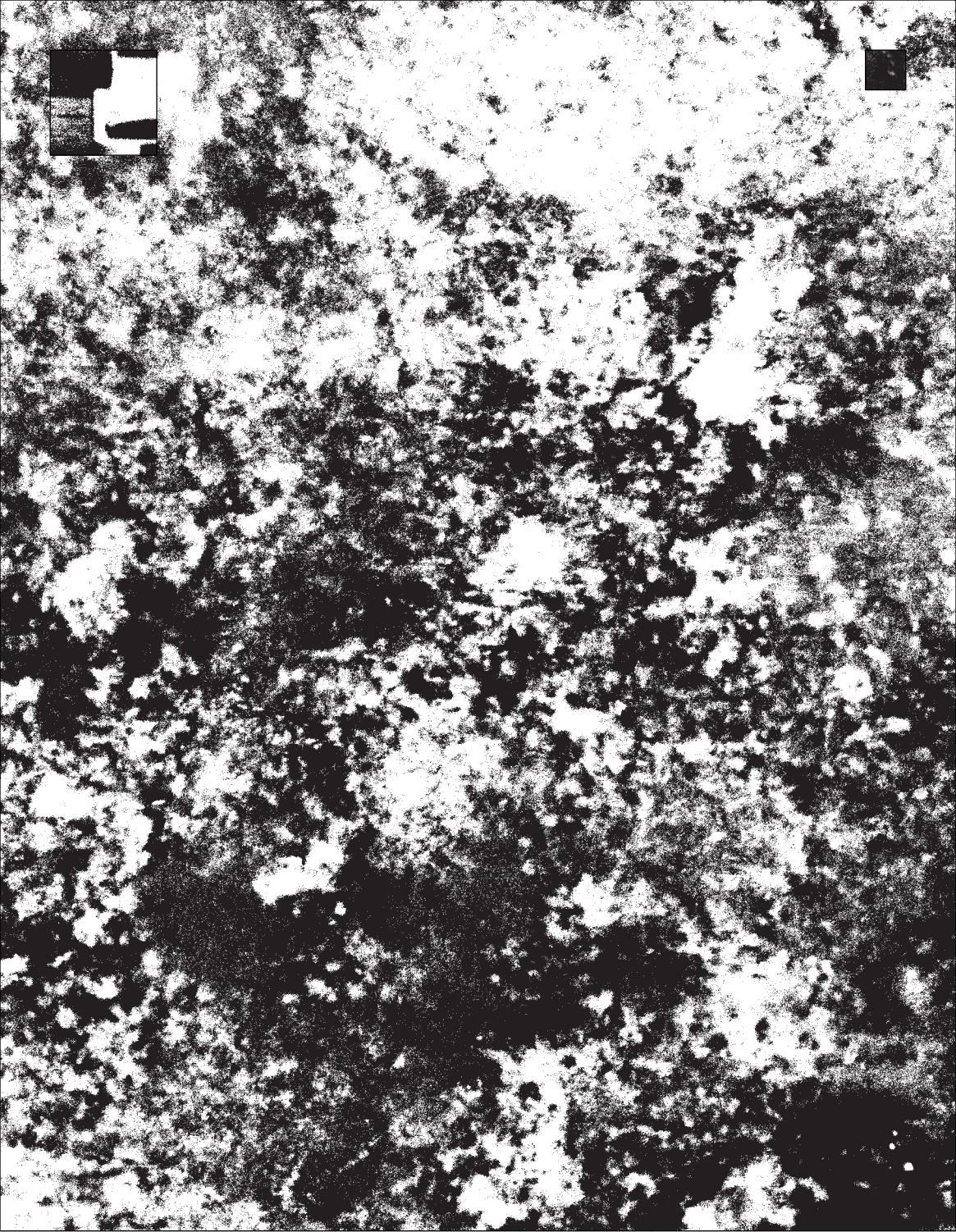
I should note, the proposal was not accepted. Which I was OK with, since it would've been deeply uncomfortable for everyone involved. I can't recall if the alternative art school gathered much steam but I know the attempt was made and these things take a lot of time and resource, of which we are often poor. Someone older and wiser than I am once said that you can't start from a place of collectivity, but it's grown through care, comradery, a commitment to difference, and sitting with difficulty. My final word on this matter is that "whatever will be, will be" is a bit of a depressing swan song and perhaps "whatever could be, will be" is more appropriate.





GSASA would like to thank our wonderful graduate designer, Josh Hale. Josh graduated from GSA's Communication Design programme in 2024.

Design and Illustration: Josh Hale
Instagram: @joshhale_-



[An Instruction Manual for the Art School]