

Community Art



So you want to be an artist:

I always knew I wanted to be an artist, however, I enrolled in an Art History/English academic degree, and ended up leaving before I graduated as I needed to follow my heart with being an artist... Then I built up a portfolio at Leith School of Art and applied to art college. I did a foundation course at Newcastle School of Art, followed by a degree in Fine Art at Staffordshire University, which focuses on sculpture and painting. It used to be free, but now only the Scottish Colleges are free.

Scottish art colleges are:

Edinburgh College of Art
Glasgow School of Art
Gray's School of Art
Duncan and Jordanstone

These courses are 4 years or with an MA, 5 years.

The English system is different: one year foundation course, and then a 3 year degree.

Fine Artist:

Sculpture, Painting, Intermedia, Photography. There are many other art courses. From curating to digital technologies, or those in Design.

Designer:

Animation	Design	Design Informatics
Fashion	Film and TV	Glass Graphic Design
Illustration	Interior Design	Interior Design and Architecture
Jewellery and Silversmithing		Performance Costume
Product Design	Textiles	

I learn by doing, taking courses, but also by self teaching, making mistakes and learning from them.

Community/ Participatory artist

How to make a living as an artist:

1. Teach: Learning how to teach my techniques to other people- at Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop in Newhaven which led eventually to a job teaching Sculpture at Edinburgh College of Art

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2. **Freelance educator/ facilitator/ maker etc2**
3. **Exhibit, sell work, get prizes:** there are various prizes, Royal Scottish Academy, Aberdeen Artists, SSA.
4. **Grants: Apply for grants,** Various grants are available from Creative Scotland and other bodies
5. **Residences:** You are given a studio or room and a given period of time to make and develop work. I got to travel to Tasmania Norway Germany France USA
6. **Artists Exchange:** I went to Berlin and Munich.
7. **Commissions:** You are selected by a panel and paid to make a specific artwork.
8. **Participatory Artist:** You help other people make art work, and you are funded to do this, for instance in 2015, I spent 2 years at Edinburgh Arts.

What's a participatory artist?

You work within a brief which someone has usually fundraised for first, and then work with a group or groups of people to co-create an artwork, or installation, or performance together.

The artist is like a facilitator, or enabler. The artist helps other people develop the ideas, and then make them real. There are lots of kinds of participatory artists

Anthony Gormley, 'Field' 2004: he hired over 60 people in Guatemala who all knew each other to make over 210,000 small clay people to represent the people of the world

Hans Clausen: 'People's Museum of Memory and Myth', Pennywell All Care Centre 2017. He asked people about their collections and made a beautiful case to display them.

Battle of Orgreave, Jeremy Deller, 2001: photographs of a recreation of police battle with miners on strike in 1984. Some of the original miners were involved.

Bed, Entelechy Elders Company. May 2018: This enabled the older generation to have a voice. The shoppers are talking to them, making a connection with them. It is an unusual, provocative image.

My work:

I am inspired by plants, nature, I am an environmental artist. I also make sculptures that move. Which of these images would you like to know more about?

Muirhouse:

This was created on a brownfield site that will now be houses, I planted 3000 daffodils to spell out 'Muirhouse is Home'

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Queen Bee:

I made a cast of a pregnant lady in mudrock. I created a mould and then rammed soil into the mould. I made a timber frame round her and carved letters into it, and planted potatoes in her. The roots grew around her face and green shoots came through her body. It was to represent how life and death are bound together and bringing forth new life.

My advice:

My Advice for applying for art college:

Take extra free classes at Fruitmarket Gallery, North Edinburgh Arts community centres.

Make a portfolio at Edinburgh College, or Leith School of Art

Go to Julie Reid's Portfolio OOmph website <https://www.portfolio-oomph.com/>- they offer 1:2:1 advice remotely on your existing portfolio..... Experiment.... draw from life with different materials, and in different scales. The selection panel is looking for CREATIVITY and ORIGINALITY first and foremost. SELF MOTIVATED WORK is highly regarded. It is a digital submission. It must stand out by showing individuality.

Applications have become saturated with self portraiture recently and so a portfolio of self portraits is unlikely to gain success at entry level - instead concentrate on individual ideas. Perhaps do an external Foundation Course and apply to the Scottish colleges into Second Year directly to the more design orientated specialisms and Sculpture/ Intermedia etc (ECA).

*If you don't know what you want to study apply to 1st year although this is steeper competition. * (Advice from an existing ECA tutor)

Artist pay according to Scottish Artists Union website:

https://www.artistsunion.scot/pay_rates_2019.

These are ideal scenarios.

Natalietaylor.org.uk

<https://centipedeproject.wordpress.com/> - for participatory art

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