



## **YVAN Annual Report**

### **01 Apr 2023 - 31 Mar 2024**

#### **0. Cover page**

##### **YVAN**

A Support Network for the Visual Arts Sector in Yorkshire and the Humber

#### **1. Introduction**

##### **Who are YVAN**

YVAN is made up of artist networks, studios, collectives, individual artists and makers, visual arts organisations, visual arts workers, a range of specialist associates, Higher and Further Education departments and Researchers.

##### **Mission**

To be a voice and advocate for the visual arts sector in Yorkshire & the Humber, delivering a programme that affects change in the profile, reputation and sustainability of the visual arts and artists in Yorkshire and the Humber.

##### **Vision**

Yorkshire & Humber is a place where the visual arts thrive through collective strength and collaboration across the sector, founded on the creative vision of individual artists.

##### **What we do**

Support artists, makers and arts workers to identify issues and priorities for action focusing on: Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility; the Climate Crisis, areas of research and National Policy

Collaborate with organisations in supporting the visual arts through professional development, advocacy, research and promotion

Champion & Advocate for the role of the visual arts in leading on social and political change, and amplifying the impact from our region.

YVAN is a voluntary-led organisation, managed by part time freelancers and 1 employee.

### **Team**

Sharon Gill - CEO - Sculptor

Sarah Yaccabe - Administrator - Clothing and Crafts Maker

Hannah Burgess - Communications & Marketing - Ceramicist

Melissa Burntown, Newcastle University - PhD collaborative doctoral researcher - Artist

Alice Chandler, University of Leeds - PhD collaborative doctoral researcher - Artist & Jewellery Maker

### **Board & Working groups**

Helen Nakhwal - Co-chair & Finance - Finance Director of Pilot Theatre

Michael Barnes-Wynters - Co-chair - Multi-disciplined audio visual artist

Lucy Dunhill - Director - Design for Disability

Laura Biddle - Director - Curator and Writer

Zanib Rasool MBE - Director, Research & Learning working group - Rotherham United Community Sports Trust, Partnership and Development Manager (from May 2022)

Sue Ball - Director - MAAP

Hafifa Ahmed - Research & Learning working group - Artist and Youth Worker (from June 2023)

Ingrid Bale - Research& Learning working group - Artist (from June 2023)

Yuen Fong Ling - Research & Learning working group. Artist, curator, researcher and lecturer.

Glynis Nelsen - Research& Learning working group. Artist & Curator

## **2. Organisational summary:**

YVAN is one of nine UK regional organisations under the leadership of the Contemporary Visual Arts Network (CVAN) who we support in their Fair and Equitable programme and campaign to demonstrate the Visual Arts Value case. CVAN's campaign to extend Museums and Galleries Exhibitions Tax Relief (MGETR), which will now carry on until 31 March 2026, built on YVAN's work as the lead organisation in delivering a major research programme and Report.

YVAN is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation in its own right, although we would like to join forces with another NPO in the region to amplify our voice and extend what we can achieve, and we are currently engaged in conversations with several potential partners.

Highlights of the year were our support for Growing Colour Together in June 2023, the re-launch in August 2023 of YVAN's Artist Network log, our Beyond the Obvious exhibition at Riverside House in Rotherham for Black History Month in September 2023 and the opportunity to present YVAN as a support organisation for visual artists at the Bradford Producing Hub visual arts social in January 2024.

We continued to work with our two embedded post-doctoral researchers, Alice Chandler and Melissa Burntown, and were proud to see their work progress over the year. The exchanges between the collaborative doctoral award researchers with their overlapping research interests and YVAN has already provided insights into Artist Networks and Artist-Led Initiatives.

We are very happy to report that we were successful in our application to The Big Lottery Community Fund for funding to deliver creative workshops that promote the cultural heritage of diverse communities in Rotherham and the programme will begin in the 2024/25 year.

Helen Nakhwal, co-chair  
August 2024

### **3. CVAN**

CVAN England campaigns and advocates for the visual arts sector nationally, creating support programmes for artists and art workers and developing organisational support that promotes learning and knowledge. It works closely with Government departments, trade body organisations, and multiple sector organisations.

CVAN has worked in partnership to ensure the continuation of the Museum and Gallery Exhibition Tax Relief, which is worth £40 million to the sector; campaigned for education reform through the Creative Education Manifesto; and is now focused on the first 100 days of the new Parliament, campaigning for robust investment and support for the visual arts sector. CVAN supports the development of equality, diversity and inclusion across the visual arts sector through its Fair and Equitable programme.

Paula Orrell, National Director CVAN

### **MGETR**

YVAN led a national advocacy campaign to increase the uptake of Museum and Gallery Exhibition Tax Relief (MGETR) across the sector, and to provide impact data and case-studies. There is no doubt of the value of this cultural tax relief for museums, galleries and the visual arts in that once received, it is returned as unrestricted funding.

Working with Contemporary Visual Arts Network (CVAN), the UK museums and visual arts sector, Arts Council England and DCMS, the sunset clause that proposed the cessation of MGETR in 2024, was finally lifted by HM Government. From 1 April 2025, the rates for MGETR will be permanently set at 40% (for non-touring productions) and 45% for touring productions.

For guidance on application, see [HMRC creative support](#)

Sue Ball, Director at YVAN

## **4. Highlights:**

Artist organisations directly supported x 3 (Woven/HATCH, Artworks, Bradford Producing Hub)

Co-ordinated events x 19 (7 x EDIA, 5 x online artist social, 1 x exhibition in Rotherham, 1 x stall at Rotherham Show, 5 x Research learning working groups, 1 x Board away day)

New Partnerships x 10 - (Woven, Bradford Producing Hub, Sheffield Galleries and Museums, Our Big Picture, East Street Arts(HIVE), Artlink, Government Art Collection, Flux, RMBC, Impressions Gallery)

Publications x 2 (Annual Report, Contribution to BEAM report)

Programme Audience-

Artists x 21 (12 x BTO2 Rotherham, 6 x Growing Colour Together, 3 x Artworks together)

In person x 80? (BTO2 Rotherham exhibition - 50, Bradford creative meeting - 30, Artworks Together x ?)

Online x 79 (EDIA - 62, Online artist social - 17)

### **Social media stats**

#### **Instagram**

144 new followers

491 content interactions (+100%)

Reach 3.5k, 32% rise from last year

500 Stories (+96.9%)

The story tool on Instagram is a sharing method that has led to a huge leap in new followers.

Engaging with artists and partners through projects like BTO2 and Artist Spotlights has created higher activity on this platform.

#### **Facebook**

46 new followers (+17%).

Content interactions at 521 (+31%)

Reach 6K (-40%)

Despite overall reach being down 40% from the previous year, there was an increase in reach within our current followers. To achieve a wider reach we need to implement more social media adverts for selected campaigns.

## **Website**

20k visits

Most people visiting Home, Artist Network Log and Resources

Average time spent on our pages- 133 seconds

According to [Contentsquare's 2021 Digital Experience Benchmark report](#),

the average time on page across all industries is 54 seconds

We publicly launched the Artist Network Log on 2nd August 2023, this has received a high number of visits. Similarly to the log, the resources section serves as a continually developing space, it's designed as a web page that visitors continually return to and even bookmark for updates.

## **Mailchimp**

21 newsletters sent

46.5% open rate, same as last year.

A higher number of newsletters sent this year due to an introduction of a regular roundup, alongside specific promotional emails for meetings and events. A similar open rate suggests that the audience activity remains much the same.

## **Comms summary**

Launching both the Artist Network Log and the Artist Spotlights, as well as seeing the Beyond the Obvious 2 On Tour in Rotherham come together, were highlights for me this year. The Artist Spotlights, where we give a platform to artists working within the region, is an important part of our digital activity as we engage with not only those artists but the networks they work within. Each artist was linked within a network that we were partnering with or artists exhibiting within our own projects (BTO2 Rotherham).

The Artist Network Log launch was a great achievement for YVAN and the culmination of many years of research and work by current and previous YVAN team members. Creating its strong graphic identity and launching the map was just one step in its journey, as we are now reviewing how

people use the log so we can be sure it constantly shifts to the needs of the community.

As my role is communicating YVAN's values and mission through the activity that we share and facilitate, I have found this year to be one of growth and connection- something not just shown in statistics, but in the work we produce and promote. Our activity has continually put first the individual visual artist in supporting them to thrive within the collective strength of networks.

Hannah Burgess, Comms

"YVAN was a key support partner during my residency and commission with the Growing Colour Together project. We received mentoring from YVAN and support in the form of an Artist spotlight on their website. This was a valuable recognition for me as an early career Artist which I am really grateful for." Michaela Lesayova, Growing Colour Together project

## **5. Working groups / Governance**

YVAN is an independent company limited by guarantee, incorporated in 2016 with not-for-profit Memorandum and Articles.

YVAN connects at a sub-regional, regional, pan-Northern and national level through CVAN. This structure facilitates YVAN in its role to consult, gather data and produce impactful reports to amplify the voice of the visual arts sector and affect policy development at governmental levels.

YVAN Directors bring specialist arts and cultural experience with artform knowledge and offer access to arts and curatorial networks at local and national levels. Specialist freelancer workers are recruited according to task related contracts. An internal team of freelancers, one employee and associates, carry out the work we do within the region's creative and cultural sector.

## Anti Racist Framework update

YVAN undertook our annual review of the anti-racist framework between July and August 2023 to evaluate the organisation inline with the definitions ([Four Types of Organisation](#).) (1. The All White Club 2. The Affirmative Action or 'Token' Organisation 3. The Multicultural Organization 4. The Anti-Racist Organization)

Decision Making - 4

Budget - 3

Money From - 3

Accountable to - 3

Power and Pay - 3&4

Located - 4

Beneficiaries and participants - 3

Culture of the Organisation - 3

Programmes - 3

Building Partnerships - 2

- 2 global majority researchers joined the research working group.
- The EDIA open meetings inform our work and programme. The budget was used to pay speakers and facilitators to share knowledge with our network.
- We follow guidance from CVAN Fair + Equitable continuing to support the campaign and share their research
- The budget allocated to the research working group was used for Beyond the Obvious exhibition in Rotherham total spend **£9,937.5**

## Progress on actions

Critical friend sought for bespoke moments such as recruitment.

Attendance to EDIA meetings needs to be improved

Researched into diversifying income

Researched into new NPO's and alternative governance models

Mapping how our geographical targeting align with racist/anti-racist programming using the Artist network log to to identify Global Majority networks

EDIA complaints procedure in place

Researched into provocations for BTO2. - BTO3 taken on tour in Rotherham.

Online Artist social - peer support sessions in development due to Alice Chandler's research

Evaluation of protected characteristics for lead partners in consideration

## Accessibility

"We updated our [Safer Spaces policy](#) to be used at all public meetings and events. Adapted from Social art networks safer spaces agreement, which ensures we encourage safe and welcoming spaces. We now include an accessibility introduction at the start of meetings to inform attendees what access options are available. When researching into venues for events we ensure they meet access needs.

The accessibility statement for the website was updated with CVAN's best practice guidance, research into guidelines from gov.uk, arts, heritage and charity organisations helped us plan actions to make improvements to how we work. Actions involved; highlighting changes needed to the website, creating easy read documents, using more visuals and accepting alternative formats when creatives apply for roles within YVAN.

Our accessibility guide for meetings in the creative sector online and in person continues to be updated with new guidance. Keeping up to date and more aware of the needs for accessibility in the creative sector have become increasingly important in our work."

Sarah Yaccabe, Administrator



Image credit: Rob Young @R0BY0UNG

## 6. Research

Our Research questions:

**Q1.** How do we most effectively gather and share knowledge that's embedded in the cultural networks and communities that we work with - or want to work with - to increase support for artistic practice?

**Q2.** Can artists' networks define their own development needs and act on them, and how is this best supported?

**Q3.** Addressing the Wellbeing, Inclusion, Diversity and Equality (WIDE) of artist practice in the region is vital and we must ask - Whose Knowledge (Q1) is it and Who speaks for Whom?

### Research working group

"The research working group organised a tour of Beyond the Obvious 2 publication to engage with Rotherham's diverse audience, having a presence at the Diversity Festival as part of Rotherham show in September 2023. YVAN undertook action research to understand public space engagement..

By touring the exhibition across Yorkshire and Humber, YVAN seeks to get closer to the wider audience and understand, through research, ways of engaging audiences underrepresented in art and culture, acting as "bridge builders" between the art sector and the public. The research working group also welcomed two new members to the team: Hafifa Ahmed and Ingrid Bale, who bring knowledge and insight as artists from the global majority."

Zanib Rasool - Board member and Research group member

### Collaborative doctoral awards

## Alice Chandler

WRoCAH funded Collaborative Doctoral Award between the University of Leeds & YVAN

‘Researching Artists’ Networks in Yorkshire and Humber: determining value, impact and sustainability’

Supervisors: Dr Jonathan Ward, Dr Robert Knifton & Sharon Gill

In April 2023 I presented a paper exploring qualitative methods for “valuing” artist networks in partnership with fellow PhD researcher Hayley Reid at Creative Cities Knowledge (CKC): New Futures for Creative Economies in Bristol. In May, I collaborated with fellow YVAN CDA Melissa Burntown to design creative workshops to be delivered at East Street Arts HIVE conference. These workshops utilised creative performance methods with a script written by Mel to examine the multifaceted aspects and values embedded in artist networks. I have also worked with Yorkshire Sculpture International (YSI) to undertake analysis of their YSI Sculpture Network.

Throughout the year, with my supervisor Dr Jon Ward and Dr Benedetta Dettore, I helped to instigate a network of researchers at The University of Leeds whose research focus is artists, arts organisations and cultural work.

In October, I travelled to Australia for 2 months on a research trip considering the impact of the Australian government’s new Cultural Policy ‘Revive’. One of the policy’s central pillars is to celebrate the centrality of the artist by supporting them as workers. I was interested to find out how artists working in Australia interpreted this and consequently spoke to several artists, artist-led organisations and galleries to gather data. I also presented some interim findings from my research with YSI at the University of South Australia in Adelaide.

In February 2024, I took 3 months out from my research to undertake a UKRI policy internship in the Department for Work and Pensions. Here I

worked as a social researcher where I carried out secondary qualitative analysis on DWP data. This placement provided the opportunity to consider the broader context of how government policy shapes career development and provides welfare support.

Following the placement, I look forward to starting the write up of my thesis. The continual and invaluable support from YVAN's research working group will undoubtedly be vital in this process.

Alice Chandler, University of Leeds

### **Melissa Burntown**

Northern Bridge Funded Collaborative Doctoral Award Between Newcastle University And Yorkshire Visual Arts Network

Researching Dialogues of Fragility – experiments in survival, precarity and sustained support for artist networks in a post-pandemic 'North'.

Supervisors Harry Weeks, David Butler & Sharon Gill

I have made significant progress during the past year with a key highlight being the completion of 3 workshops with artists in Hull, Newcastle and Leeds as part of my practice based research. All of the participating artists were paid a fee for their participation in line with the Artists Union England rates of pay. The workshops took the same format in all three locations, oriented around table readings of a re-worked fictional script. The script was enacted as a creative tool to articulate and explore key themes within my research relating to artists' experience of precarity and provided an immersive shared-experience for the artists involved. After reading the script aloud in groups, artists were given space to have an open and self determined conversation informed by but not dictated by their experience of reading the script together. These conversations were audio recorded and anonymously transcribed. I am currently reflecting on the best way to analyse and integrate this important data through my art practice.

I have also been working with the Arts Council Collection team at Longside (West Yorkshire) to develop a placement to conduct research within their sculpture collection. This placement will be supported by NBC taking place part time over a 6 month period from July to December 2024. The placement will provide an opportunity to conduct unique research working with artwork acquisitions acquired during and around the Covid-19 pandemic.

I have also been working with my supervision team on developing my writing and to produce a chapter outline in preparation for writing up my thesis.

I have continued to experiment and produce other creative forms of writing as part of my art-practice, which will be developed into a print and online publication and published with YVAN at the end of the research project. This particular outcome and mode of working will enable me to incorporate and explore my own lived- experience of precarity, and how this has informed the research project, underlining the autoethnographic aspects of my methodology.

## **7. Programme**

### **Beyond the Obvious 3- action research evaluation summary**

After the publication of Beyond the Obvious 2, the Research and Learning Working Group agreed to invest in further research into the key issues raised in the publication. A plan to deliver 4 research activities in different parts of the region over 12 months that would develop and respond accordingly in an action research model was approved.

The exercise has made us reach out to new organisations and gain a greater understanding of how the sector is working in areas of the Yorkshire and Humber region we are least active in as an organisation.

This research is aimed at informing the development of a new project to assist visual artists from the global majority in our region gain greater equity of opportunity.

## **Summary**

Total audience: 253 + 20,000+ (festival visitors)

Artists engaged: 17

Mailing list additions: 42

1. Artists and the general public are civic minded and care for a fairer society.
2. Uncelebrated or unconnected artist, especially mid career, global majority artist, have fewer exhibition opportunities.
3. Resources for creativity are not perceived to be equitably distributed.
4. Labels and identity are important but access to opportunity is more important.
5. Creative practice not directly related to your protected characteristics or lived experience can hinder your interest to curators and commissioners.

Artists who participated are:

Manish Harijan

Adrian Barron

Sarah Joseph-Dasent

Gretchen Sandiford

Hafifa Ahmed

Uzma Rani

Alka Walton

Zanib Collective

Zanib Rasool

One Voice

Leon Alao

Shaheen Shah

## **Artist Network log - August 2023**

A developing directory to grow, amplify and connect the region's visual arts sector was publicly launched. Originally created by Co-producer Georgia Taylor-Aguilar led by our Research lead.

The Artist Network Log includes artist-led collectives, groups, co-ops, self-organised workspaces and studios, grassroots and small organisations – and everything in-between. It is designed to:

- Promote collaboration and connection
- Support cross-network solidarity
- Be a catalyst for conversations and skill sharing

## **Growing Colour Together - June 2023**

YVAN supported WOVEN's Growing Colour Together project through artist mentoring and marketing support. WOVEN in Kirklees 2023 aimed to create a district wide, natural dye, colour garden.

## **Bradford producing hub - Jan 2024**

We had a wonderful evening at the Bradford Producing Hub visual arts social in Keighley! The focus was on providing local and national support for visual artists. We presented YVAN and what we do alongside some other fantastic organisations and networks, [Axisweb](#), [CuratorSpace](#), [Bradford Producing Hub](#) and [Keighley Creative](#)

We shared food together with some creative activity/networking and then toured the studios at [Keighley Creative](#)

## **Knowledge Exchange Launch event - November 2023**

The Knowledge Exchange (KE) Forum is a community of Practice led by its membership, supported by the Partnerships and Knowledge Exchange Service. The Forum aims to connect and support anyone practising or interested in KE in the University and the University's family of stakeholders. Sharon Gill CEO attended the event to share knowledge and research opportunities for partnerships.

Photo's credited to: Paul Stimpson (he/him), Marketing and Communications Officer, Innovation Launchpad Network+

## **Manish Harijan bequest**

Manish was supported through the Yorkshire & Humber Visual Art Network (YVAN) and Contemporary Visual Arts Network (CVAN) to secure his artist visa in 2021 and was successfully nominated through YVAN to have his work acquired for the Nation through the Government Art Collection in 2020. In recognition of this support, Manish kindly donated a work to YVAN who are in turn donating the piece to the Sheffield galleries and Museums Trust for wider public benefit. This piece was exhibited at Sheffield Graves Gallery opening of their Identity exhibition in April 2024.

Manish Harijan's artistic expression comes from a lived experience of caste discrimination and navigates the injustices inflicted on vulnerable populations around the world. Bold, captivating and provocative, Manish' artwork has brought both opportunity and struggle.

## **EDIA - Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility**

April 2023 - Trades Union speaker on the newly launched TUC (Trades Union Congress) [Cultural Manifesto](#). Discussing the impact of the cost of living crisis and lingering effects of Covid-19 on the cultural and creative sectors. The manifesto aims to engage arts organisations and practitioners on decent pay and conditions, with aims of eradicating low pay culture.

May 2023 - [FailSpace](#) Champion, Pamela Crowe, encouraging the cultural sector to instigate more honest and open conversations about failure. FailSpace is based on the principle that learning from failure should be an integral part of the process of making and implementing cultural projects and policies. Pamela shared tools and resources that are open access and available for the cultural sector to use.

July 2023 - Open agenda meeting facilitated by Lucy Dunhill, accessibility advocate and YVAN board member

Aug 2023 - [Disability Arts Network](#), The Disability Arts Network (DAN) is organised by Artlink Hull and is open to everyone in Hull and the wider region. Its purpose is to provide a place to discuss art, culture, and disability. Dan Watts presented the opportunity to join the discussion and learn more about how the network works.

Nov 2024 - Developing Your Creative Practice application workshop facilitated by Lara Monro from 'Working with' focusing on accessibility. A practical and clear run through of the do's and don'ts when applying for DYCP

Jan 2024 - Anti-racism framework open discussion and knowledge sharing. Participants shared examples and stories of experiences. The group attending have been involved in EDI processes, anti-racism groups and policy making. The meeting involved discussion, sharing of resources and learning more about anti-racism.

Feb 2024 - [CVAN Fair and Equitable](#) - A run through of the 4 toolkits created by CVAN(Contemporary Visual Arts Network) in support of the programme to develop a visual arts sector that facilitates the thriving of artists and arts workers from underrepresented communities. Sharon Gill, YVAN CEO gave an introduction to the 5 key summary points - ambition, allyship, accountability, Accessibility, adaptability.

### **Online Artist social**

Launched in November 2023 - a space for artists and arts workers to engage in social connection and knowledge share.

A developing space curated by the artists and arts workers who attend the sessions. The socials provide a space to share work in progress, request feedback on a recent work, to deliver a presentation, test out an idea, share experiences and challenges from the creative sector and access peer support. It is an opportunity to make connections, friendships and share resources.

Sessions have been held on topics: Creative goals and AI, How creatives investigate their ideas - Facilitated by Mel Burntown CDA, Submitting work

to open exhibitions and open agenda sessions, with artists and arts workers attending from Leeds, Bradford, Hull, Sheffield, York and Huddersfield.

'These are the questions I need' to gain helpful criticism/investigation on work from others. 'I love hearing about other people's work'

Attendee/Artist comment

"Thanks so much for arranging today's session. It was the first one I've attended and I wasn't sure what to expect, but I found it really useful!"

attendee/artist comment

### **Artworks Together- sponsor of International Exhibition at Wentworth Woodhouse and online- August 2023**

The exhibition showcasing the brilliant work of artists with learning difficulties, autism or both took place from August 30th-September 24th at [Wentworth Woodhouse](#), South Yorkshire. We spotlighted some of the artists involved in the exhibition which you can [view here!](#)

## **8. Finance**

YVAN is a micro-organisation. Its business model relies on Arts Council England (ACE) investment and project funding from external sources.

**YORKSHIRE & HUMBER VISUAL ARTS NETWORK LIMITED**  
Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st March 2024

### **Income**

£34,379

### **Expenditure**

Accountancy and audit £1,075

Core Team £24,354

Communications £6,721

Bank charges £112

Travel and subsistence £255

Administration and office expenses £1,862

Net income and expenditure 0

Balance brought forward at 1st April 2023 £13,167

Balance carried forward at 31st March 2024 £13,167

## **9. Key Performance Indicators & future development**

View our KPI's and priorities here:

<https://www.yvan.org.uk/our-priorities>

For a small organisation with 0.7 FTE capacity, we set ambitious targets as evidenced through our Key Performance Indicators (KPI's), while remaining responsive to opportunities and issues facing our sector and the artist led in our region.

We work hard and we recognise that sometimes you have to change your priorities from the plan, meaning we may fail to deliver against some targets in a timely manner. This does mean we over deliver in other areas with greater impact and more favourable outcomes!

Where we did not achieve our KPIs are:

**Develop research methods for collecting intersectional data.**

This turned out to be a much more involved and complicated issue once we started to investigate. What data did we want and why? Why should anyone share it with us? How do you translate lived experience that is complicated and messy into useful data? So yes we have failed to meet our deadline, but the work is ongoing and falls under the EDIA, the anti racist and the BTO3 work.

**Recruit two more board members**

After covid there was a 40% drop in volunteering everywhere. While experience demonstrates volunteering as a Board member provides

unparalleled mentoring and learning opportunities, it comes with financial responsibilities.

Where we did excel in our work is through Comms, yes we recruited a new marketing and Comms officer, and once they got their feet under the table we have seen huge developments in this year. The messaging is consistent and we have shone a spotlight on some excellent artists and networks in our region, work that will continue.

Our partnership working has also been successful. As a regionally based network, this is at the heart of what we do, so we are delighted when this works well. The benefits of being engaged in a network are quantifiable, we only need to ask our researcher Alice Chandler!

2023-24 was a strange year for YVAN as the mechanism for securing our core funding was disrupted and this led to three months of uncertainty and living on reserves, which inevitably meant we did not perhaps have the same enthusiasm and investment when delivering our planned programme. While some deadlines may have been missed, the work has been completed- after a fashion.

## **2024-25**

Moving forward our core objectives and priorities remain the same, the method of delivery and KPI's are informed. Creating an organisation that values and invests in its wider team and associates is important to us, and training that not only supports the work but develops the person is seen as equally important.

We will be looking to build on our action research around our Beyond the Obvious project, supporting artists from the Global Majority to secure equity of opportunity; to expand and review our research programme to be co-created and relevant; generating regional data to present to CVAN

England to assist in their national policy work to improve the working situation of visual artists; to operate as valued connectors, collaborators and partners supporting the visual arts sector in our region however we can, all the while upholding our core values and promoting sustainable practices.

Sharon Gill, CEO

**YVAN**

**Registered Company number: 10387805**

## **Links**

[Artists Union England](#)

[Arts Council England](#)

[Artworks South Yorkshire](#)

[Axisweb](#)

[Bradford Producing Hub](#)

[Centre for Cultural Policy](#)

[Contemporary Visual Arts Network & Regions](#)

[Corridor8](#)

[Disability Arts Network](#)

[East Street Arts](#)

[Failspace](#)

[Flux Rotherham](#)

[Government Art Collective](#)

[Hatch - WOVEN](#)

[HMRC](#)

[Impressions Gallery](#)

[Manish Harijan](#)

[Museums and Galleries Exhibition Tax Relief Scheme](#)

[Northern Bridge Consortium](#)

[Our Big Picture](#)

[RMBC](#)

[Sheffield Galleries and Museums](#)

[Trades Union Congress](#)

[White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Working With Lara Monro](#)

[Yorkshire & Humber Visual Arts Network](#)

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[www.yvan.org.uk](http://www.yvan.org.uk)

@YVANetwork

## **Thanks**

YVAN would like to thank our funders and partners: Arts Council England, Newcastle University, Leeds University, Artworks and a special thanks to all our Board and Team for the dedicated support and commitment to ensuring the Yorkshire and Humber regions artists and arts workers have a voice.

Special thanks to our associates on the working groups for their enthusiasm and passion to support the sector.

Logos: ACE, Northern Bridge Consortium, White Rose (WRoCAH), Artworks South Yorkshire, HATCH Woven, CVAN



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