

7 DUNDEE VISUAL ARTISTS AWARDS - REQUEST TO INCREASE GRANT (AN153-2005)

Dundee Visual Artists Awards Scheme has been running in partnership with the Scottish Arts Council's Visual Arts Department since 2000. The Scheme makes grants of a maximum of £500 to Dundee based visual artists of all ages, at any stage in their career, working in any media. Since its establishment the DVAA Scheme has supported 57 artists through 63 awards and has been successful in:-

- bringing in additional funding to professional artists providing them with increased opportunities to research and create new work;
- creating "grass roots" funding that encourages artists, often at an early stage in their career, to continue to live and work in the city;
- raising the profile of Dundee based practitioners at a national and international level.

The DVAA Scheme is one of a number of Local Authority Artist Award Schemes running in Scotland. The Schemes have proved successful at both a local and national level and this year the Scottish Arts Council have agreed to consider increasing their level of partnership funding. In Dundee, on the basis of a continuing Council contribution of £4,000, Scottish Arts Council will increase their contribution from £3,500 to £7,000. This will result in a total budget for the scheme of £11,000.

The Scottish Arts Council have requested that the Council raise the maximum grant to all applicants from £500 to £1,000. Previously, where funds allowed, the Council offered a single grant of £1,000 to an outstanding applicant. This change to the Scheme would simply ensure that all applicants are encouraged to apply for a sum appropriate to their project up to a maximum of £1,000. It is envisaged that the increase in grant would enable a small number of more established artists to apply to the Scheme for more ambitious projects that they are currently able to progress.

There are two deadlines for applications each year. This year's deadlines are Wednesday, 25th May and Wednesday, 23rd November 2005.

The Council's contribution of £4,000 can be met from the Leisure and Arts Department's 2005/06 Revenue Budget.