

After Creative Scotland

A statement on the future of Scottish culture

The long-delayed advent of Creative Scotland will not transform the provision of government-funded support for the arts overnight. Creative Scotland 2009 Ltd is supposed to equip Creative Scotland with sufficient structures, guidance and groundwork that they need not turn to anyone, least of all the government, for instructions on how to fulfil their remit of support for the arts. Indeed ministers are forbidden from giving such instructions at all. However the new agency's form will not be fully realised on opening day and there will be an inevitable transitional period wherein things remain fluid. It is during this time that those in the sector will have an opportunity to shape Creative Scotland and perhaps make up for the inadequate and shallow consultation that has been the hallmark of the preceding years.

As ever the SAU speaks for visual and applied artists specifically. We believe that effective support of these invaluable workers depends on a handful of principles. Should Creative Scotland fail to reflect these principles it will render itself illegitimate and Scotland incapable of effectively supporting its visual arts.

- 1. REPRESENTATION: Practicing artists must be invited to sit on all cultural decision-making boards and be fully integrated into all cultural planning.**
- 2. NEUTRALITY: Freedom from governmental or party political agendas is required to allow the widest possible artistic development and cultural dynamism.**
- 3. REMUNERATION: We call upon the Scottish Government, Creative Scotland and local authorities to adopt pay structures for artists working on publicly funded projects that fairly cover research, planning & development as well as execution.**
- 4. PARITY: Creative Scotland must remain committed to a MINIMUM £6.87 million budget of dedicated and publicly stated "support to artists" (equal to The Scottish Art Council's last business plan).**
- 5. TAXATION: We call upon all members of the Scottish Parliament to pursue expansion of tax powers so that individual practitioners seriously disadvantaged by the current system may benefit from reform.**
- 6. ORIGINALITY: Creative Scotland must not only recognise the intrinsic value of art but also, in that spirit, welcome risk without undue regard to established critical or commercial successes.**