

**CiRCUS ARTSPACE:  
INTERN/FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME REPORT 2022  
For The Highland Society of London**

During 2022, Circus Artspace reviewed our approach to the intern programme in response to ongoing feedback and discussion with past interns and our supporters. This resulted firstly in a student placement in partnership with the UHI BA programme during the spring, followed by the launch of our newly branded Fellowship programme in the summer. The purpose of this change was to move the focus from simply work experience in Circus Artspace programme to offer a more person-centred, stronger learning experience for the artist based on their individual needs and career aspirations. We appointed our first Fellow in the autumn.

This year we have used the Highland Society of London grant funds to offer two placements, unfortunately we did not have additional or surplus funds to offer further placements. This report summarises our main achievements in the delivery of the 2022 internship/ fellowship programme and learning.

**Sandris Masins (February – April 2022)**  
**Student placement in partnership with Inverness College UHI**  
Instagram [@sanch\\_art\\_designs](https://www.instagram.com/@sanch_art_designs)

This opportunity was specifically marketed as an ‘Exhibitions Intern’ to help co-ordinate and deliver our Graduate Associates series of exhibitions at Inverness Creative Academy in February - April 2022. One of our UHI partners responded to explore whether this was an appropriate opportunity for a student placement from the Art & Contemporary Practice BA course. Third year student Sandris Masins started with Circus Artspace in February and described himself as a multiform artist working in various styles and media.





On joining Circus Artspace, Sandris expressed his aspirations: -

*"I have passion to create, explore and be a part of artwork wherever it takes me. I am always trying to keep that flexible mind. Conceptual art and Abstract expressionism are my movements. I enjoy upcycling, painting, sculpting, but I believe I am at my best with a graphite pencil in my hand."*

*In this placement I hope to learn ins and outs of event hosting, project management and experience how it is to work in an artist collective. Excited and really looking forward to learn new skills."*

Once he got to know the team and familiarised with Circus way of working, Sandris had a busy time supporting the installation of 5 exhibitions, working closely with the exhibiting artists. Together they created quality presentations as well as Sandris sharing the invigilation and attending weekly meetings.

Throughout the placement Sandris showed enthusiasm, flexibility and a real desire to learn. He was able to clearly express what he had learned and how he would apply this to his practice and how it may inform his future career.

The experience has broadened Sandris's field of experience, developing his critical questioning and understanding of creative practice and contemporary art contextually. Sandris had a peer crit to discuss new work he was producing for assessment. His desire and drive to create is inspiring and the placement has helped him gain a greater understanding of the wider contemporary art context, improved his knowledge of curating exhibitions and skills around professionally presenting work.

**Emma Caldow** (September – November 2022)

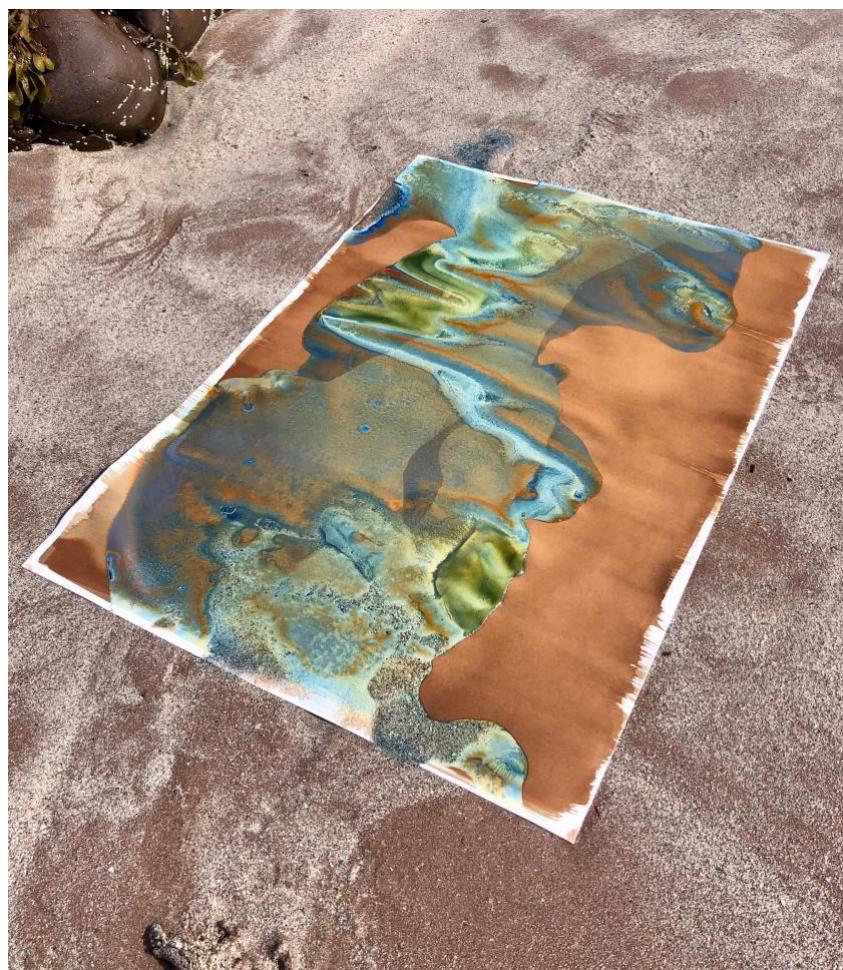
[www.emmacaldow.com](http://www.emmacaldow.com)

Instagram [@emma\\_caldow](https://www.instagram.com/@emma_caldow)

Emma Caldow joined Circus Artspace in September 2022 having graduated from Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen that summer. In tandem with the first months of the Fellowship she

also worked part-time at An Talla Solais as the gallery assistant during their members exhibition. She had previously completed a residency with FISK Gallery in Polbain, on the Coigach Peninsula of North-West Highlands, where she subsequently continued to work part-time. She describes her practice as across fine art, environmentalism and material science to dismantle and sustainably reassemble the 'Image'.

Emma's aspiration for the Fellowship was to integrate within the Highland creative community, and to generate critical conversation about sustainable practice and the transition from art student to art practitioner. During her time with Circus Emma assisted with the delivery of two key events marking 200 of the Caledonian Canal. This included a celebration event at Urquhart Castle in September with the young participants from our Inland Navigation project. She also helped to curate artists' film and information for Bridging Water and assisted over two nights during our largest public event, with over 400 visitors, in October.



Emma reflects on her period as a Circus Artspace Fellow:-

*"I didn't know what to expect when CiRCUS Artspace welcomed me as their first Fellow. I was fresh out of Art School and eager to keep learning. Having completed a BA Painting, I wanted to explore how I could use the degree within wider society."*

*I learnt quickly that it was all hands on deck at CiRCUS, so I jumped aboard. I watched, learned and practised by attending and supporting with events. My admiration for CiRCUS*

*Artspace could not be greater. The work is constant, but the commitment never falters. I was privileged to gain an understanding of how they operated and evolved as a collective, and of what socially engaged practise can achieve.*

*Surplus to this, CiRCUS provided support and advice throughout my transition from Art Student to Art Practitioner. This comprised 1 to 1 mentoring and a group critique. By utilising CiRCUS as a sounding board, I was able to secure an exciting new role with an established gallery in Inverness. Further, I gained representation for my own creative practice.”*



## 2023 Looking Forward

We are in the process of finalising our programme plans and funding for the forthcoming year. We hope, funding allowing, to be able to offer 3 Fellowship opportunities during the year, with each receiving a stipend of £300 for their placement.

We are planning for our programme to include the following elements in which the 2023 Fellowships will be able to participate with planning and delivery and to gain experience:-

- A residency in partnership with a local Community Forest Trust.
- Development and launch of a Circus Art Club for young people.
- Another cohort of the Graduate Associates programme.
- Four exhibitions in partnership with Eden Court theatre, using spaces within their venue.
- A series of Studio Sessions with Circus Artspace and invited artists for sharing and discussion of work-in-progress and personal development.
- Two socially engaged projects in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland working with young people and the LGBTQ+ community.