

hARTslane



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2024 has been an incredible year of growth, transformation, and community for hARTslane. We've achieved so much, from completing essential refurbishment works to our gallery building, to expanding our cultural programmes and community initiatives. Here's a look back at the year's highlights:

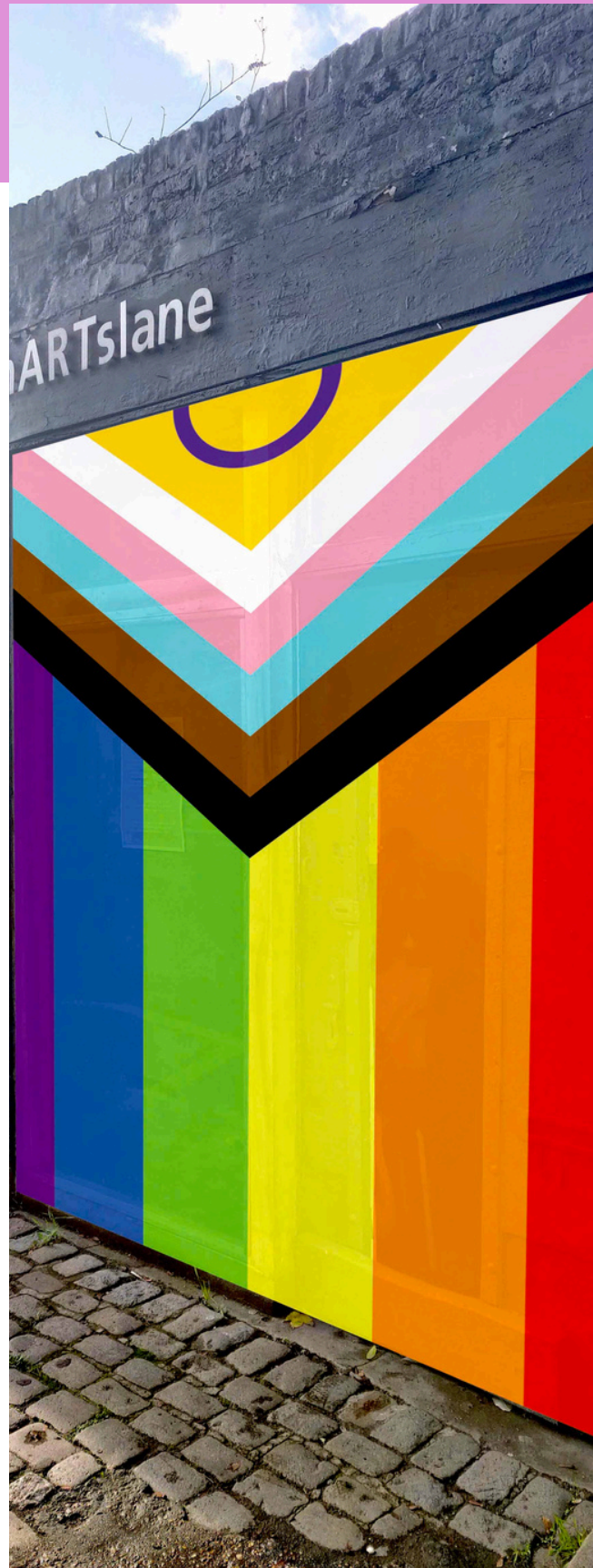
We kicked off the year with major **upgrades to the gallery space**, thanks to funding from the NCIL and Lewisham Council. Phase 1 of the refurbishment works was completed in February, and it's already making a huge difference. These upgrades ensure the gallery is safer, more accessible, and ready for future growth.

This year, we also took a proactive step towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of the gallery by undergoing a **Law Health Check** with the pro bono law firm Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson (London) LLP. This review covered important areas such as contracts, policies, and lease agreements, providing us with essential guidance for the future.

Our **cultural programme** this year has been diverse and engaging, showcasing the creativity of our community and artists. Key events included:

Invisible / Visible Exhibition

Curated by Usva Inei, this powerful exhibition featured the work of 36 talented artists, funded by Lewisham Local. It sparked important conversations around visibility, identity, and inclusion.



HA! Hartslane Alternative school & degree Show

Rachel Lonsdale and Sarah-Athina Nahas curated an alternative Fine Art school programme of talks, skill-share workshops, crits, off-site visits, an interim and degree show. Between April-August, they met with 8 emerging artists in hARTslane every Monday and Wednesday evening. The final 'graduation' was a much loved culmination of their creative journeys.

In June we launched our '**Friends of hARTslane**' and '**Artist Membership Scheme**', giving our community more ways to connect with the gallery. To mark the occasion, we hosted an event where we sold second-hand clothes, shared a visual journey of our time at hARTslane, and launched 'Tin' a risograph zine' curated by Rachel Lonsdale and Max Melvin. The idea behind Tin is to move across the year with a new open call and a new zine every season. Tin 001 featured 15 submissions and was sold on a stall at the postcard event. The event was very successful and helped us foster a closer bond with our supporters.

In September we organised the first edition of the **Hatcham Community Weekend & Hatcham Street Market**, which saw us partner with local organizations like Besson Street Gardens, Eckington Gardens & New Cross Library for a vibrant community weekend. The Hatcham Street Market brought together local makers selling handmade arts & crafts as well as residents selling 2nd hand clothes & bric a brac. This was a truly wonderful celebration of circular economy.

We wrapped up the year with a festive exhibition and fundraiser. **All I Want for Christmas is... Peace** featured an exhibition alongside a billboard installation, offering a platform for artists to reflect on themes of peace, unity, and togetherness.

As we look to 2025, hARTslane Gallery is poised to continue its growth, building on the foundation laid last year. With the completion of our phase one of refurbishment works, we're excited to welcome new artists, engage with our community, and continue offering a space for creative exploration.

Thank you to all the artists, supporters, volunteers, and funders who have made 2024 such a memorable year for hARTslane. Here's to another year of art, culture, and community!

AT A GLANCE

368

ARTISTS WHO HAVE
PRESENTED WORK

206

DAYS IN WHICH
HARTSLANE WAS
USED OR OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC

48

EVENTS &
EXHIBITIONS
HOSTED

279

ARTWORKS
SUBMITTED TO ALL I
WANT FOR
CHRISTMAS
IS...PEACE

8

PARTICIPANTS IN
HA! HARTSLANE
ALTERNATIVE

2

MONTHS CLOSED
FOR BUILDING
WORKS

3

NEW VOLUNTEERS /
JOB PLACEMENT

40

NEW "FRIENDS OF
HARTSLANE"



PHASE 1 BUILDING WORKS COMPLETED

The former motorbike garage is a charming gallery space today but this was not always so.

We have been operating at the premises, as an art gallery since 2012. When we first came across the space, it was dilapidated, dark and dinghy. We have, over the years done improvement work to the building to turn it into an open & welcoming art space, with help from friends, family & volunteers. The breakthrough came when we received funding from Lewisham Council's NCIL scheme as well as their Empty Property Grant scheme which allowed us to make significant improvements to the building fabric to improve it structurally & spatially. This part of the work (phase 1) was completed in February last year.

The improvements include:

- The strengthening and underpinning of external walls
- Concrete pad supports under the floor in the front area of the gallery to support a future mezzanine (phase 2)
- New concrete flooring
- A reconfigured kitchen space & store in the back space
- A new wheelchair-accessible toilet
- Extensive rewiring with new sockets, steel conduits, and two new emergency lights
- A completed Health & Safety audit, and a new fire extinguisher
- A Structural Engineering report and Building Control certificate





'INVISIBLE VISIBLE' WAS A GROUP EXHIBITION HOSTED AT HARTSLANE THAT CELEBRATES LGBTQ+ IDENTITIES AND BODIES, AS WELL AS THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND IDENTIFICATION IN TERMS OF ONE'S GENDER AND SEXUALITY.

THE AIM WAS TO BRING TOGETHER LGBTQ+ ARTISTS THAT LIVE IN NEW CROSS AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY AND ITS CREATIVITY. .

INVISIBLE / VISIBLE

A CELEBRATION OF
LGBTQ+ BODIES AND
IDENTITIES

CURATED BY USVA INEI

15 - 24 MARCH, 2024
Part of The Telegraph Hill
Festival 2024





SOPHIA KOSMAOGLU,
DIY ART SCHOOL (2024)

HA! HARTSLANE ALTERNATIVE, RUN BY RACHEL LONSDALE & SARAH ATINA

HA! is an alternative MA Fine Art programme designed by artists for artists, offering a response to the limitations of traditional art education. Focusing on skill-sharing, affordability, and collective learning, HA! creates a space for artists who are outside the typical institutional structures, like funded residencies or high-cost university programs. It's for those seeking community, mutual support, and a more sustainable approach to art-making.

Rather than just creating for recognition, HA! prioritizes building a meaningful, collaborative practice. It's for artists who may not have the time or resources to engage in mainstream art world activities, but still want to connect, share ideas, and support one another. Through an artist-run education model, HA! ensures access to resources and knowledge, making it a practical, community-driven alternative to traditional art education.

At its core, HA! is an artist-run education model where knowledge is passed from one artist to another, and resources are shared. This makes it affordable, accessible, and genuinely focused on the lives of artists—those who are living, working, and creating in a city where every day can feel like a balancing act between survival and creativity.

Over four months, participants engaged in activities designed to expand their practice and build lasting relationships with fellow artists.

- Weekly Gatherings: Twice a week, artists joined crits, talks, workshops, and off-site visits, all aimed at broadening their artistic perspectives.
- Interim Show (May) & Graduation Show (July 2024),
- Talks from Cristiana Bottigella, Charlotte Warne Thomas, and Sophia Kosmaoglou focused on economic sustainability, fair pay, and alternative education models for artists.
- Hanne Peeraer and Dagmara Bilon shared insights into interdisciplinary practices and dynamic environments in the art world.



At hARTslane, we're excited to foster a creative community that's open, inclusive, and supportive. In 2024, we've launched two membership schemes that offer fantastic benefits for artists and art lovers alike.

Artist Membership

For just £4 a month (or a one-time payment of £40), artists become part of our vibrant artistic community. As an Artist Member, they'll enjoy:

- An invite to participate in our annual Members' Show (next one in February 2025)
- The opportunity to contribute to TIN, our seasonal risograph zine, by submitting writing and images up to four times a year
- Monthly newsletters with updates, opportunities, and exciting news from the gallery

This can really help artists gain exposure, connect with other creatives, and showcase their work in a collaborative, supportive environment.

Friends of hARTslane

For those looking to support hARTslane more directly, we've created the Friends of hARTslane membership! As a Friend, they'll receive:

- Monthly newsletters to keep updated on everything happening at the gallery
- 20% discount on commissioned artworks by our director, Tisna Westerhof
- 20% off selected merchandise, publications, workshops, screenings, and ticketed events

This is a perfect option for those who want to stay engaged with our programme, while also enjoying exclusive discounts and supporting hARTslane's growth.

Building a Community Together

Our memberships are more than just a way to access perks—they're a way to be part of something bigger. By joining hARTslane, members help build a community where artists, creatives, and art lovers can come together, share ideas, and support each other. Whether they're an artist looking for exposure, a supporter who wants to stay connected, or someone who loves art and wants to help us thrive, there's a place for everyone at hARTslane.



All I want for

Christmas is

Peace



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS... PEACE

HARTSLANES INTERNATIONAL WINTER SHOW AND FUNDRAISER

6-8 DECEMBER

hARTslane was pleased to present All I Want For Christmas is... Peace, the first edition of what will become an annual International Winter Show and Fundraiser. The gallery invited artists from around the world to come together to exhibit and support hARTslane by donating postcard-sized works in any medium. Each original piece was sold for £30, with all proceeds going to hARTslane, helping to support its mission to bring people together and closer to themselves through the arts.

This year's exhibition centred around the theme of advocating for a more just and peaceful world. The event also featured a billboard message, sponsored by BUILDHOLLYWOOD.



Hatcham Community Autumn Weekend & Hatcham Street Market

28 & 29 September

On the last weekend of September, we organised the Hatcham Street Market, offering local residents and organisations the opportunity to sell their second-hand goods, mostly clothes and books. Few people also sold their arts & crafts creations.

Harts Lane was filled with traders from the early hours, and between 12 and 5pm, hundreds of local residents came to visit and shop.

It was a great joy to reclaim the street and see so many people buying and selling second-hand items.

The market was part of the first edition of the Hatcham Community Autumn Weekend, which featured events organised by Besson Street Gardens, Eckington Gardens, New Cross People's Library, and the Old Library at the Music Room.





We continue to make the space available to artists & curators who want to organise their exhibitions.

In 2024 alone and excluding the months of January and February when we were closed for the internal building works, we hosted 48 art events, ranging from 1 day screenings to 2 week long exhibitions, many of which also included workshops, talks and other public events.

We encourage artists to call their events 'opening night' as opposed to Private View as we believe a more inclusive language is needed and we want everyone to feel welcome in hARTslane.

We operate through a "Policy of Saying Yes to Artists" as we believe they are experts in their field. We facilitate their exhibitions and support their PR efforts. In 2024 we launched the hARTslane Announcement Board on WhatsApp, which is proving an efficient way to inform our audiences about what's on.





ABOUT HARTSLANE

hARTslane is a limited company registered in England & Wales and qualifying as a Community Interest Company. Company number: 09524335

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Shamina Peerbocous

HA!

Curated by Rachel Lonsdale and
Sarah-Athina Nahas