

**Graphic Studio Dublin**  
**Strategic Framework Plan**  
**2022 - 2027**





## **Foreword from The Chair, Graphic Studio Dublin**

The purpose of this strategic plan is to document our visions for the development of Graphic Studio Dublin (GSD) over the next five years and how we intend to make that vision a reality. I will briefly touch on our history and how we can take learnings from our past to bring into the future.

Established in 1960 the Graphic Studio Dublin provides studio space for artists and teaches traditional printmaking skills. It was founded by Patrick Hickey along with Leslie MacWeeney, Liam Miller, Elizabeth Rivers and Anne Yeats. The company was created to promote old print making skills, lost arts of etching, woodcut, wood engraving and lithography. These arts came to life again in the hands of a dedicated group - Ireland's first artist's co-operative. Graphic Studio Dublin's membership and facilities have grown and is now home to approximately 90 member artists.

In 1988 the Graphic Studio Gallery was opened in Dublin's Temple Bar as an exhibition space that works to educate the public about fine art printmaking and to promote and sell fine art prints. Graphic Studio Gallery represents all of the studio's members, as well as 100 other fine art printmakers from Ireland and abroad.

Supported by the Arts Council, GSD is a not-for-profit arts organisation built on the spirit of collaboration and maintains charitable status. The support of the Arts Council, along with individual benefactors and corporate sponsors has been essential in allowing GSD to provide studio facilities to generations of printmakers. Our work could not be done without their generosity.

Our graduate program ensures that the next generation of printmakers have a place to work and learn from many of the finest artists in the country and also get inspiration from their peers.

In delivering this strategy, the board is committed to promoting the unique skills of fine art printmaking and the co-operative ethos that was a driving force for the establishment of GSD 62 years ago. Collaborating with other print studios in Ireland and abroad, with visual artists who may not traditionally work in print, sharing knowledge, skills and resources benefits the printmaking community nationally and internationally.

In 2022 the board of directors undertook an organisation-wide process to interrogate our Vision and Mission. This document is a direct result of that process. A key strategic decision has been to reinstate the position of an Executive Director who has the capacity and vision to realise the company's goals over the next five years.

In summary our key priorities are to support Irish printmakers and help them develop their practices, raise the profile of GSD for the benefit of our members, enhance the cultural relevance of printmaking and to ensure that we these goals are achieved in a modern, inclusive and diverse organisation that is held to the highest standards of professionalism and governance.

The board is proud to present this strategic plan which aims to reinforce GSD's position as a bastion of Irish printmaking and the spirit of artistic collaboration upon which the organisation was founded. It is with renewed optimism and ambition that we enter the next stage in GSD's journey.

**Bruce Stanley, Chair of Graphic Studio Dublin, August 2022**

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## Our History

In 1960, in response to the lack of fine-art printmaking and teaching facilities in Ireland, Graphic Studio Dublin was founded by artists Elizabeth Rivers, Anne Yeats, Pat Hickey and Leslie McWeeney and the publisher and founder of Dolmen Press, Liam Miller. With an artist-led ethos since its inception, Graphic Studio Dublin fosters and promotes the traditional skills of etching, stone lithography, woodcut and linocut and embraces contemporary techniques including photo-intaglio and screenprinting.

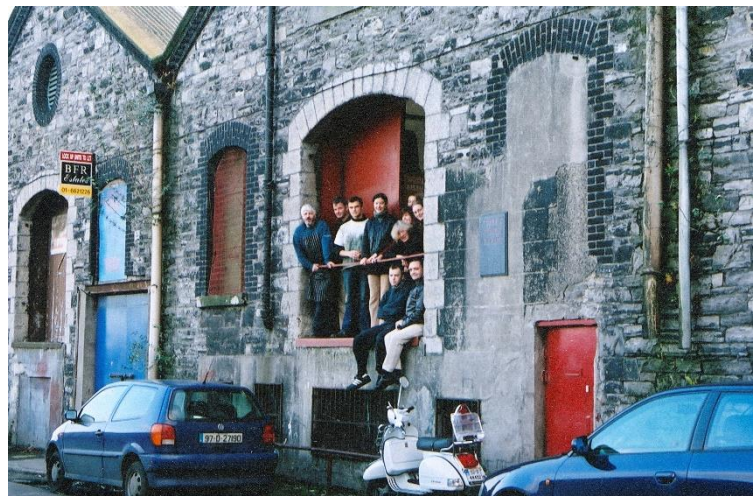
Hundreds of artists have passed through the doors of the Studio, from our first basement premises in Lower Mount Street, through a long and productive sojourn in Green Street East in Dublin's Docklands, a temporary stay in Pearse Street, to our present home in a spacious four-storey former brewery on the North Circular Road. Many of its artists have gone on to spread the skills of printmaking by founding new studios, in a manner which would have pleased the original five founders.

Graphic Studio Gallery was established in 1988 in Temple Bar, to display and sell original fine-art print in Dublin. It was the first gallery in Dublin dedicated to print.



Upper Mount St

Distillery Court, North Circular Road



Green St. East, Docklands



Graphic Studio Gallery,  
Cope St., Temple Bar



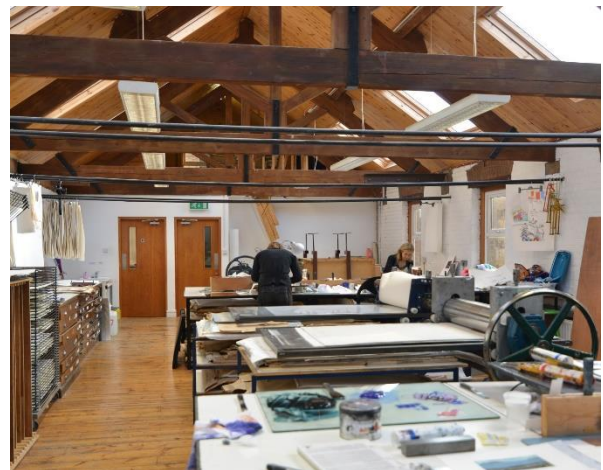
## Who we are today

Graphic Studio Dublin is the longest-established and largest Irish printmaking studio with a gallery dedicated to presenting fine-art print. Our state-of-the-art studio and gallery facilities provide creative, educational and engagement opportunities for artists and the public to explore printmaking. Funded by The Arts Council and our artist members, Graphic Studio Dublin uniquely enables artists to make prints and also showcase and sell their work through the gallery and online.

We are proud of our standing among the arts community, and our importance to the local, national, and international arts infrastructure. We recognise that printmaking is unique in the visual arts sector but may not get the same level of support both from the public and from relevant bodies. Printmaking is a visual artform that needs extensive technical and material support. Providing the best facilities and opportunities for our artists is of utmost importance to us. We are also proud of the support that our gallery offers printmakers and the positive impact it has on their art practices.

Graphic Studio Dublin encourages a supportive and inclusive culture within our organisation, amongst our staff, board, membership and all other studio users. We are committed to equality of opportunity and the protection of fundamental human rights. We recognise that we are enriched by, and we value, diversity, individuality and inclusion, diversity of practice and engagement, and diverse social and cultural traditions. To that end, we are actively seeking and implementing new ways to foster and encourage inclusivity within our organisation.

As part of both Visual Arts and Printmaking networks, Graphic Studio Dublin engages in collaborative discussion and explores ways of promoting printmaking as an artform within the context of contemporary visual arts in Ireland.



## Our Artist Members

Graphic Studio Dublin currently has over 80 members. Membership entitles an artist to 24-hour access to our studio, with technical support, a reduction on course fees and professional development workshops. We provide a large state of the art workshop, equipped with fourteen presses, and the equipment, inks and other materials necessary for printmakers to make great art work.



Graphic Studio Dublin can be accessed as a full member, through supported access, or on a graduate rate through a twice-yearly application. We also offer Graduate Awards annually. Artists are expected to work independently, safely and professionally. In response to our EDI strategy, we offer a number of workshop bursaries. Artists can also access our studio through our Education, Visiting Artist and Residency programmes.

Printmaking facilities are available to artists for etching, screenprinting, photo intaglio, carborundum, linoprint, woodcut, Mokuhanga, letterpress, mezzotint, lithography. We provide IT, digital output and production support.

We provide opportunities for artists to develop their art practices through teaching, editing and peer mentorship. Members can showcase their work in Graphic Studio Gallery and on our website, and in off-site studio-led exhibitions, often in collaboration with community or national institutions. We support artists at all stages of their careers.



## Artists and Studio Programmes

We have run a Visiting Artists programme for over 40 years, collaborating with highly regarded Irish and international artists, to create prints supported by our Master Printers. The sale of this work through our gallery supports the funding of the studio.

Our Education programme is run annually across all print media on a weekend, weekly, or evening basis. Courses are taught by experienced printmakers, most of whom are members.

We run international residencies and exchange programmes, including annual residencies for non-printmaking artists, funded by Fingal and other County Councils.

Collaborations and commissions from corporate bodies, such as Behaviour & Attitudes, allow for the production of large editions of work by chosen artists, created with the support of our Master Printers and printed by studio artists.



## Our Gallery

Graphic Studio Gallery is our exhibition space, dedicated to presenting and selling original fine-art prints. It provides a quality showcase facility which represents the diversity of printmaking in Ireland today. The gallery programme presents 8-10 exhibitions annually, including group, solo and members' shows, representing artists at all stages of their careers.

Through collaborative relationships with external curators, the exhibition programme provides an expanded perspective of contemporary printmaking. The gallery staff work with private, commercial and institutional clients, on the commissioning and their acquisition of fine art prints.



## Our Future

As we move into the next phase of development at Graphic Studio Dublin, we have renewed our Vision, Mission and Values, and continue to re-evaluate our objectives.

We firmly believe in the importance of printmaking as an art form and are determined to follow through on our objectives in support of our vision over the next five years. We aim to promote the development of contemporary art practice through the medium of printmaking.

We will continue to develop and review Graphic Studio Dublin Policies in line with relevant government policies, and the Arts Council of Ireland's strategies, including 'Making Great Art Work' and the 'Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy and Strategy. We will review our 'Paying the Artist' policy with respect to the Arts Council of Ireland's policy.

In 2022 our Board of Directors undertook an organisation-wide process to interrogate our Vision and Mission, to evaluate our priorities, and to visualise and enact our ambition for the future, the result of which is formalised in the following pages.



A principal objective for Graphic Studio Dublin has been to appoint an Executive Director, who can take on key corporate, staff, sales, policy, fundraising and governance decisions, can continue to develop an artistic vision and lead Graphic Studio Dublin into the future. This follows an intensive review of resources, staffing and direction of the organisation.

We are delighted to have made this appointment in August 2022 and look forward to the benefits as the organisation develops over the next five years.



## Our overarching Purpose & Vision

### Our Vision

Graphic Studio Dublin exists to enhance people's cultural experience by fostering, sharing and presenting creative excellence through printmaking.

### Our Mission

- To provide a printmaking studio and gallery that espouses best practice, excellence and innovation.
- To support and develop artists' practices and livelihoods, and promote collaboration across disciplines, organisations and borders.
- To raise the stature of contemporary printmaking and enhance the cultural experiences of all people in Ireland and worldwide, reflecting the full diversity of Irish society.

### Our Values

- Creative freedom and artistic integrity.
- Excellence and diligence.
- Innovation and education.
- Inclusivity and accessibility.
- Collaboration and engagement.
- Collegial support and respect.
- Reward and satisfaction.



## Working with Others

### Funding

Graphic Studio Dublin has been strategically funded by The Arts Council for many years and takes account of national policy frameworks such as the Arts Council's Making Great Art Work 2016-2025.

### Audiences

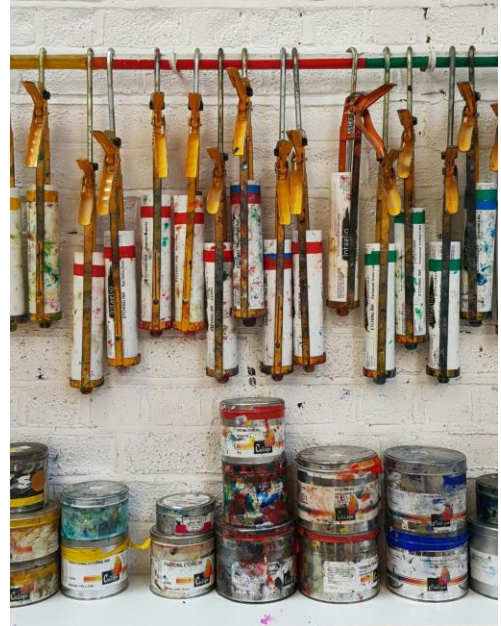
Our organisation attracts an audience represented by our artist members, the general public, those attending courses, those viewing and buying our art.

We respect the ambitions of the Arts Council's Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy and Strategy and have developed our own EDI Policy, which strives to respect, support and ensure inclusion of all sections of Irish society, all social backgrounds, traditions, ethnicities, traditional and new communities.

## Our Strategic Priorities

### We have four priorities for the next five years:

1. To support artists' practices and livelihoods
2. To raise the profile of Graphic Studio Dublin both locally and internationally
3. To enhance the cultural relevance of printmaking
4. To ensure operational excellence



- 1. To support and develop artists' practices and livelihoods, and promote collaboration across disciplines, organisations and borders.**

### We will achieve this by:

- Reviewing and developing our artistic programme including studio projects, Visiting Artist programmes and commercial commissions.
- Encouraging a culture whereby artists will be paid for their work and can earn a living as an artist, in line with the GSD 'Pay the Artist' policy.
- Supporting artists to make a living through exhibition and sale of their work.
- Identifying opportunities to celebrate our artists and their work online and through artists' talks, with the aim of establishing new audiences for their work.
- Providing paid opportunities to artists through teaching and editioning studio work.
- Educating, training and mentoring our members and other artists.
- Developing studio practices through residencies, masterclasses and professional development opportunities.
- Maintaining and developing facilities to provide a safe, welcoming and supportive environment for our members, artists and staff.
- Researching, investing and training in new technologies where appropriate.
- Collaborating with groups and organisations to raise awareness and be supportive of local community issues.
- Collaborating with external agencies and practitioners across the arts.
- Developing commercial collaborations and commissioning partnerships.

## **2. To raise the profile of Graphic Studio Dublin both locally and internationally**

### **We will achieve this by:**

- Providing a printmaking studio and gallery that espouses best practice, excellence and innovation.
- Providing printmaking facilities for artists to produce the best traditional, contemporary and expanded print.
- Developing and promoting a print-making Education Programme to appeal to a diverse nationwide audience.
- Presenting an exhibition programme that is representative of the diversity of printmaking in Ireland. Developing an audience engagement strategy that maximises public engagement.
- Developing a marketing plan that builds on our current activity but ensures we are targeting new and diverse audience groups both nationally and internationally.
- Increasing our presence at international events including print fairs, print conferences, biennials and exhibitions.
- Presenting the best of printmaking through artists talks, demonstrations, our website, social media and digital media.
- Expanding our national reach through the development of artist collaborations and our Education and Exhibition programmes.

## **3. To contribute to the stature of contemporary printmaking and enhance the cultural experiences of all people in Ireland and worldwide.**

### **We will achieve this by:**

- Developing opportunities that enable society to appreciate and learn more about printmaking as an artform.
- Presenting exhibitions that deepen visitor knowledge of fine-art printmaking.
- Continuing to develop links with emerging artists through art colleges, internships, studio and gallery visits and graduate awards.
- Protecting, preserving and developing our unique print archive and making it digitally accessible to artists, curators, collectors, educationalists, diverse communities in areas with low visual arts provision and others to engage with generations of Irish print.
- Developing existing and new corporate partnerships to produce work for distribution to their clients.
- Promoting and presenting printmaking as an artform through contemporary media networks, and our website and social media.
- Improving and growing the Graphic Studio Dublin's Friends programme.
- Increasing inclusive opportunities including studio access and bursaries in line with our EDI policy.

**4. Operational Excellence- Ensure our organisation is run professionally and with all key governance, equality, diversity & inclusion procedures being properly implemented**

**We will achieve this by:**

- Supporting a diverse culture of inclusivity with our EDI policy as a guiding document.
- Making our organisation a great place to work where employees feel supported and aspire to best practice.
- Running our organisation in a professional way with all key governance, diversity and inclusion, audience engagement and pay the artist policies being fully established, implemented and monitored.
- Reviewing and improving our management and accounting systems annually.
- Ensuring compliance with the Charity Regulator’s Codes of Practice to maintain the highest governance standards.
- Evaluating our priorities, goals and policies at the beginning of each year to ensure the previous year’s metrics have been achieved and setting the goals for the forthcoming year.
- Developing a succession plan for our Board of Directors and staff with diversity and equality in mind.
- Reviewing, analysing and improving our digital media systems to the benefit of the organisation.

**Setting Achievable Goals:**



The Board of Directors of Graphic Studio Dublin undertake to review our Strategic Plan 2022-2027 annually to ensure all Strategic Priorities and objectives are being followed or updated. We will evaluate, set and adapt achievable goals each year in line with our vision, mission and values.

## Quotes and Testimonials:

*"Printing has been an integral part of my practice and I have worked in a number of print workshops in different countries. I have to say that my experience in Dublin has been the most productive in my thirty plus years being an artist. The ambience of a print studio is very important to me, and Graphic Studio Dublin certainly has the right atmosphere"*

**Mark Francis, Visiting Artist**



*"As an artist who has had long engagement with the medium and structures of printmaking through lecturing, practice and governance, I have admired the strength, depth and range of production of the Graphic Studio Visiting Artist Programme which has had a sustained presence over a long period in Irish Art"*

**Colin Martin, Visiting Artist**

*"As a painter it is incredible to get access to the equipment, facilities and knowledge, and to have the opportunity to collaborate and learn new skills in a new medium, not to mention the wonderful working atmosphere within the community of people that are involved providing an encouraging and supportive environment"*

**Leah Hewson, commissioned artist**



*"The sense of purpose and collaboration was fantastic. The experience was a hugely enjoyable and rewarding one and, thanks to the extensive expertise in every aspect of printmaking, we were able to make work that we were proud of as it finally came off the press. For me, support of County Arts Offices for residencies like this is so important as a catalyst for artistic development and interdisciplinary cooperation"*

**Cian McLoughlin, DCC residency & Visiting Artist**

*"Graphic Studio Dublin continues to focus on the interaction with contemporary artists and provides a facility for member-printmakers to pursue their practice and as an educational facility for printmaking in general. This in my wide-ranging travels is quite unique. I remain proud of my association with this fine institution where I continue to produce work in an atmosphere of support and communal striving for perfection in print."*

**Stephen Lawlor, Member since 1983.**





*"I have transitioned from an emerging artist to establish myself as a professional. This has been in no small part due to the support I have received from the staff and members of the studio. Through commissions, editioning and teaching I have been enabled financially to continue my own artistic practice, for which I am extremely grateful to Graphic Studio Dublin."*

**Ria Czerniak-LeBov, Intern 2015, Grad Award 2016, Member since 2017**

*"Graphic Studio Dublin provided a blueprint as to how one goes about the business of making the transition between being a person with aspirations towards becoming an artist and actually making that happen. To work in a studio where you are side by side with artists who are at the top of their careers as well as people who are just starting out on that road is such a privilege and inspiration."*

**Jean Bardon, Member since 1990**



*"I am continuously realising how privileged I am to find myself a member of such an illustrious organisation as GSD. An outpost of excellence in printmaking, one of the largest studios in the world, with exceptional facilities and international reach and collaborations. The studio is not just a building with presses, it is a living entity and more than the sum of its parts."*

**Camilla Fanning, Member since 2013**



*"Being part of a collective encourages collaboration, support and an opportunity to expose my work to artists and curators that visit the Studio and Gallery."*

**Kate Mac Donagh, Member since 2017**

*"I have found this an inspiring, challenging, exciting place providing new processes and opportunities - in terms of print and yet very much complementary to my painting, enabling a productive two-way dialogue, cross pollination and alternative starting points. Paintings and drawings lead to prints and print themes and motifs are developed in painting."*

**Ned McLoughlin, Member since 2017**

*"Joining the studio was a natural progression for my artwork but I cannot imagine how without this community's empathy, nurturing atmosphere, excellence and strong support I would have developed as an artist or progressed with my work in the same way."*

**Julie Ann Haines, Member since 2014**



We would like to acknowledge the Strategy Development team in Graphic Studio Dublin:

Niamh O’Kennedy, Matthew Gammon, Susan Early, Robert Russell, Niamh Flanagan and Peter Brennan.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Board of Graphic Studio Dublin, August 2022

Bruce Stanley, Chair, Elizabeth Bothwell, Niamh O’Kennedy, Ruth O’Donnell, Kate MacDonagh, Matthew Gammon, Aoife Scott and Niamh McGuinne.

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**Graphic Studio Gallery**

Through the Arch

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Temple Bar

Dublin D02 X021

gallery@graphicstudiodublin.com

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Instagram: [graphicstudiodublin](https://www.instagram.com/graphicstudiodublin)

Facebook: [graphicstudiogallery](https://www.facebook.com/graphicstudiogallery)

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