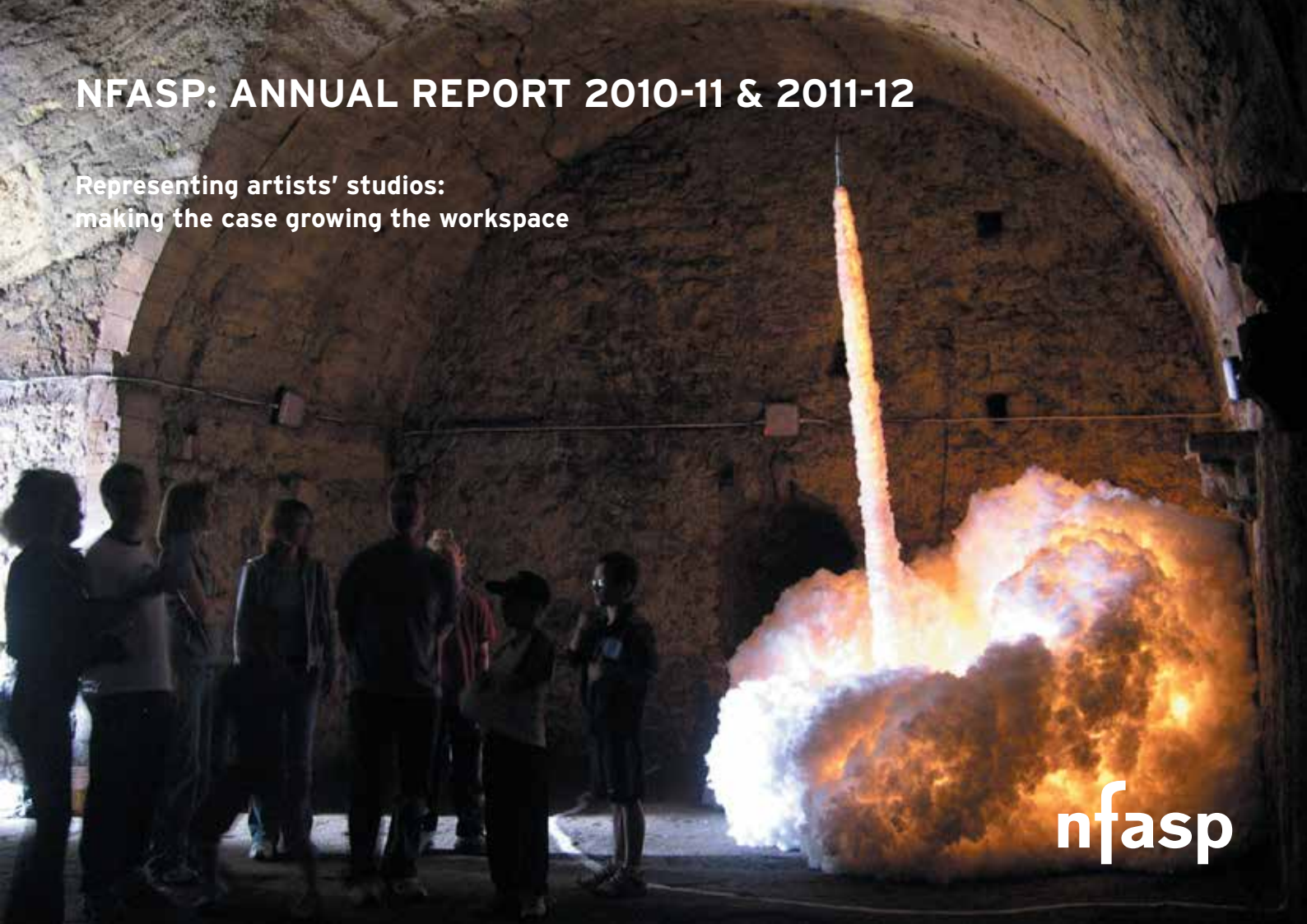
NFASP: ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11 & 2011-12

Representing artists' studios:
making the case growing the workspace



nfasp

"... there is clearly a bright future for the NFASP. It amazed me just how many small studio providers there are in the market and hopefully the NFASP will be able to help these organisations by raising the profile and sharing knowledge within the market."

Steve Eccles, Swan Housing Association

a space arts organisation, Southampton
Monkey with Car Keys – Group Show

This report shows what NFASP has achieved over the last two years. It sets out some of our plans for the future.

The National Federation of Artists' Studio Providers (NFASP) is the UK wide voice for artists' studios. It is the professional membership body which supports, connects and represents the collective interests of all those who provide and develop affordable studio space for visual artists.

NFASP supports, advises and represents the people who manage affordable artists' studios. By doing this it contributes to the success of the UK's visual arts sector by providing low cost studio space to visual artists on low incomes. Charging rents that are on average lower than market prices studio groups provide a substantial subsidy to the visual arts economy.

NFASP is focussed on three areas of delivery - ***representation*** of the membership and the wider affordable studios sector, the provision of practical advice and ***support for studio providers***, and ***making the case for affordable studios*** - in regional and national cultural, regeneration and related policy debates. These three work areas were delivered in 2010-12 with funding from Arts Council England, and are the priorities in NFASP's plans for 2012 and beyond.

NFASP has collated extensive resources and information about artists' studios across the UK

The Survey identified more than 1.5m sq feet managed by 144 studio providers and occupied by c7,500 artists in studio buildings across the UK. Over 4,000 artists remain on waiting lists for affordable studio space – demonstrating a continuing demand for affordable workspace.

Studios are "affordable" when artists can afford to rent workspace in addition to having a place to live. Most artists work on low incomes and small margins. Across the UK, affordable studio providers charge rents on average lower than market prices. The Survey also identified that there are over 550 studio providers and growing in the UK.

Data complied from the NFASP National Survey 2010, available at www.nfasp.org.uk

Artist Stuart Grant in his studio – WASPS, Scotland.

Support and Advice: NFASP provides practical support for affordable studio providers

Advice: NFASP provides advice for its members, as well as for the wider sector and for regeneration agencies and others seeking to promote affordable studios. Most frequent topics are:

- Finding and negotiating appropriate studio space at an affordable rent
- Leases and business rates
- Getting the right structure – governance fit for purpose
- Managing tenants
- Demonstrating public benefit and making the case for studios

NFASP South East/ Kent Network meeting, Turner Contemporary, Margate, March 2012 photo Robin Gardiner

> *'NFASP is an extremely valuable resource. They have provided welcomed advice and support ... It has been reassuring to know that there is someone at the end of the phone who I can talk ideas through with and also find out what is happening nationally.'*
>
> **Lindsey Strange**, Essex County Council

The advice service is primarily supported by NFASP's board which represents an impressive combination of sector knowledge and experience: In 2010-11, a total of 84 separate enquiries from studio providers, offering support to studios housing over a 1000 artists were recorded.

Member events: Each year NFASP promotes themed workshop and networking events for its members. In 2010-12 these included:

- a workshop at John Hansard Gallery, Southampton promoting the NFASP Public Benefit Toolkit, June 2010
- two events, in Lancashire and Manchester, with Axis looking at how artists' studio groups can promote their work online, July 2010
- annual member event in 2010 in Birmingham saw 80 members exploring the relationship between higher education and artists' studios

- over 50 studio groups gathered at Turner Contemporary in Margate to explore regional networking and new approaches to business planning in March 2012
- over 30 members and non members took part in a one day training workshop Property Matters on finding and setting up in the right premises for studio groups in March 2012

Resources: A range of resources were published including a *Guide to Finding the Right Studio Premises, Developing an artists' studio website: Value Added Online, Model Constitutions* – downloadable templates for groups to use, and *Charities Act Guidance*. The briefing note *The Value of the Artists' Studio Sector* has been updated and used in meetings with external partners and extensively in our advocacy work and a new *Facts and Figures* update from the *Register of Artists' Studios* was also produced and distributed.

Property Matters workshop training, March 2012 photo Robin Gardiner

Artist Rebecca Stevenson in ACME Studio, photo Hugo Glendinning

A web based directory of studio members has been reviewed and updated offering a marketing and online presence for groups.

Case studies were produced looking at different models of studio development. These included *Rural Artists' Studios: Green Close Studios* (An example of rural artists' studios with a local and global reach), *Manor Oaks, Sheffield, Yorkshire Artspace* (development of neighbourhood studios as part of a housing development programme) and *The Shed, Gateshead* (local authority developing temporary studios as part of a town centre regeneration programme).

Online NFASP resources available along with web-based advice and downloadable information sheets on leases and licenses, business rates, health and safety, insurance, inclusive access, artists' selection procedures and studio occupancy. Visitors to the site for the year 2010/11 totalled almost 21,000.

Advocacy and Representation

Throughout 2010-12 NFASP promoted a nationwide advocacy programme funded by Arts Council England. This set out the value that studio providers add to artists, communities and the wider economy.

NFASP published a range of practical and technical guidance. This was aimed at new and experienced studio managers, and at developers, planners and others seeking to bring the benefits of studios to their localities.

We provided advice face to face and through training and a number of regional and national events. This range of activities continued through 2011-12 supporting affordable studio providers individually and collectively.

Over the past year, NFASP has reorganised and re-oriented its resources, to reflect a greater emphasis on regional and local networks and peer support, a broader funding base, and the final year (2011-12) of ACE revenue funding.

With a new business model in place, a network of regional champions and studio clusters in active development and fundraising well in hand, NFASP is confident that it will continue to add value across the UK to the affordable studio sector.

Advocacy

The Federation promoted Investing in Creative Communities and a number of advocacy initiatives during the year, ranging from one-to-one meetings to conferences and responses to policy consultation, partly funded by the Federation's G4A award from ACE.

- responding to the London Plan and the Hackney Wick Area Master-Plan, informed by the Federation's Olympic Impact Report commissioned in 2008
- working actively with the Mayor of London taking the studios' strategy forward and helping plan a seminar in partnership with the Mayor's office and New London Architecture

NFASP South East /Kent Network, Turner Contemporary, March 2012
photo Robin Gardiner

'To be involved and be part of a larger network and have access to such a wealth of experience and empathic advocacy is priceless.'
Sean Rourke, Hotbed Press, Salford

- meetings were held with Visual Arts Alliance UK and the (now former) Arts Council Scotland in April 2010. The formation of Creative Scotland paves the way for a bid to fund a future Scottish studios event
- in 2012, NFASP as part of the Culture in Planning Alliance (CiPA) has joined forces with other arts organisations including the Theatres Trust to lobby successfully for culture to be included in the National Planning Policy Framework

Interior of one of the Poplar HARCA live/work studios, Bow Arts Trust, London

Representation

NFASP continues to develop the recruitment, encouragement and support of a number of regional studio champions who will bring together and consolidate mutually supportive clusters and networks across the UK. By May 2012, networks are in place in the North covering Yorkshire, the North West and East, in Kent and the South East, the South West, Wales, Scotland and London.

Membership

At the end of March 2011 we had 107 members, including 88 Studio members, 10 individual members and 9 Network members. These figures were slightly up on the previous year and currently in May 2012 stand at 145 members.

- Our members represent approximately 50% of the national studio sector
- the 6 largest studio organisations in the UK continue to be members representing over 30% of affordable studios nationally
- the majority of members provide space for fewer than 25 artists
- smaller groups value membership and the ability to seek advice, support and networking

Governance

The Federation wishes to acknowledge the tremendous work and commitment that trustees have demonstrated to NFASP since its inception. Trustees both govern NFASP and also provide substantial management support and advice to studios. Duncan Smith acted as Chair throughout the period. Jonathan Harvey was Treasurer until November 2011, the role has since been filled by Noleen Mathias.

In 2012, NFASP will review its governance arrangements, to ensure they remain effective and representative of the emerging regional and national networks.

'We are still very grateful for the support received from NFASP when setting up the space, at the time we were genuinely surprised that such an organisation existed and were willing to give us so much of their time'.
Bean – Performance Space

Trustees 2010-2012

Marcel Baettig (Bow Arts Trust, London)
Effie Burns (Cobalt Studios, Newcastle, resigned July 2011)
Madeleine Carragher (resigned June 2011)
David Cook (Wasps, Scotland, co-opted December 2010)
Naomi Dines (Occupation Studios, London)
Susan Flowers (Green Close Studios, Lancashire, resigned November 2011)
Lucy Greenaway (Phoenix Studios, Brighton)
Jonathan Harvey (ACME, London, resigned October 2011)
Joanna Hughes (Mother Studios, London)
Noleen Mathias (treasurer since November 2011)
Katherine Orpwood (Yorkshire Artspace)
David Powell (co-opted December 2010)
Duncan Smith Chair (ACAVA, London)
Ross Williams (Krowji, Cornwall)

Gasworks exhibition opening 'Made to Measure' by Mateo Lopez, Colombia, June 2010

Green Close Studios, Melling, North Lancashire

Resources

Finances

NFASP secured a four-year Revenue Funding agreement with the Arts Council of England (ACE) from April 2007 to March 2011. The ending of NFASP's regular funding from ACE has required the Federation to review its business model and funding requirements. NFASP will operate to a breakeven budget in 2011-12.

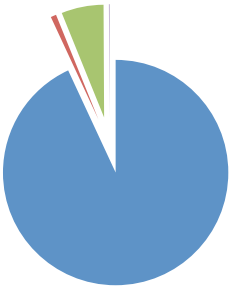
> *'I thoroughly enjoyed it and came away with a headful of ideas'.*
> **Dr Anthony Escott**, Programme Manager, FdA Fine Art, Exeter College, Member Event, Birmingham 2010

The future of the Federation depends on project funding, membership fees, income earned and time generously given within and by the sector. NFASP continues to rely on a fund of goodwill and pro bono advice from its board members and a number of studio providers and other advisors: it values this greatly. The Board is actively fundraising to sustain and develop partnerships, regional networks and its advocacy and advisory services to enable it to play a strategic, influential and supportive role for its members and the affordable studio sector at large.

The revenue grant received for 2010 – 2011 was £104,945. NFASP also received £7,645 income from membership subscriptions. NFASP were awarded a £64,000 Grant for the Arts in December 2009 towards the national advocacy programme. A balance of £18,046 for this programme has been carried forward at April 2011, which will see the completion of this project in 2011-12.

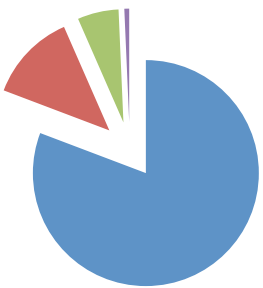
Resources for 2012/13

- Reserves
- Ace Project Funding
- Project Funds
- Membership Fees



Income 2010

- Arts Council England revenue
- Project Funding
- Membership subscriptions
- Other income



Income 2011

- Arts Council England revenue
- Project Funding
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Expenditure 2010

- Staff
- Establishment
- Administration
- Legal and Professional
- Programme and Services
- Special Projects

Expenditure 2011

- Staff
- Establishment
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- Special Projects

The Federation completed the financial year with an operating surplus of £4,801. Reserves – approximately 25% of the annual budgeted expenditure are held as a general contingency in the event of unbudgeted expenses or to cover a shortfall in income. The 2011 operating surplus has been added to the accumulated reserves bringing the total at 31st March 2011 to £29,667.

Staffing and programme delivery

NFASP is reviewing how best to manage and develop its programme following the demise of its regular funding from ACE, and facing the completion of its G4A funded advocacy programme. Staff for the period included: Director Val Millington to September 2010; Helen Pike Project Director (from April 2012); Administrator Sarah Leslie (April-July 2010) and Ruth Harrison (October 2010-March 2012).

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National Federation of Artists' Studio Providers
2012

www.nfasp.org.uk

Front cover: a space arts organisation, Castle Vault, *Fly Me to the Moon* - Dawn Shorten

Back cover: The Shed, Gateshead Northumberland