

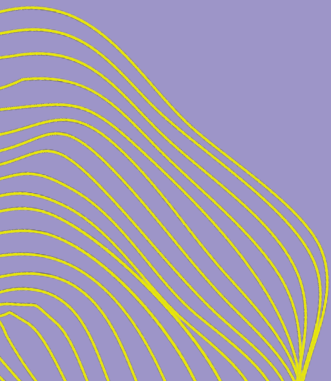
**EVEN  
HERE**

**EVEN  
NOW**

# **A** MANIFESTO

**DECISION MAKERS MUST  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXPERTISE  
OF ISLAND-BASED ARTISTS,  
UNDERSTANDING THAT GEOGRAPHICAL  
LOCATION SHOULD NOT BE A BARRIER.**

**IN CHALLENGING TIMES, ARTISTS  
REQUIRE SUPPORT, AND IT IS CRUCIAL  
TO RECOGNISE THE IMPACT OF ISLAND  
ARTS.**



# FOR CHANGE

**WITHOUT THIS ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND SUPPORT, COMMUNITIES ARE AT RISK OF LOSING THEIR CULTURAL RICHNESS.**

**OUR MANIFESTO SHOWS **HOW** ISLAND BASED ARTISTS ARE CRITICAL TO OUR CULTURE, **WHY** IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS HAVE SUPPORT AND **WHAT** NEEDS TO **CHANGE** AND BE PUT IN PLACE.**

This manifesto has been created by island artists who took part in Culture Collective, a network of 26 participatory arts projects, shaped by local communities alongside artists and creative organisations.

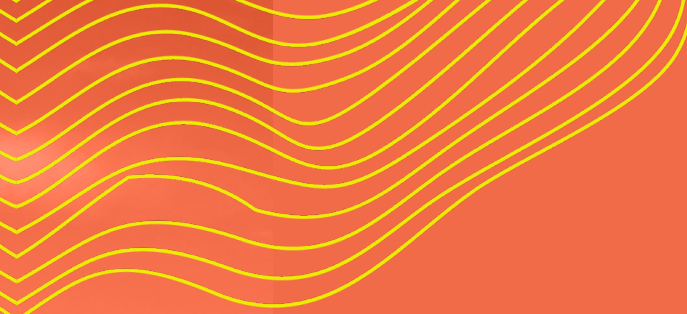
## Artists:

Helen Robertson (Shetland)  
Barry Nisbet (Shetland)  
Sandra Kennedy (Western Isles)  
Jamilla Garrett (Orkney)  
Arwen Haselden (Orkney)  
Niamh Haselden (Orkney)

Project Manager - Kathryn Spence, Shetland Arts with support from Carol Dunbar, Pier Arts Centre, in collaboration with An Lanntair and Taigh-Chearsabhagh.

Funded by Culture Collective through Creative Scotland.





01  
**EVEN US**

02  
**EVEN HERE**

03  
**EVEN THOUGH**

04  
**EVEN BETTER**


05  
**EVEN THERE**

06  
**EVEN YOU**



# **EVEN US**

**ACKNOWLEDGE THE  
EXTRAORDINARY WEALTH OF  
CREATIVES, ARTISTS AND EXPERTS  
WITHIN OUR ISLAND GROUPS.**



**WE ARE CREATIVE  
PRACTITIONERS  
ACROSS ALL  
DISCIPLINES  
WHO ARE BASED  
ON SCOTTISH  
ISLANDS.**

We **survive** and **thrive** through our work.

We **strive** for excellence in our practice.

We **promote** well-being in our communities.

We **enrich** the cultural landscape and add vibrancy.

We **integrate** within communities positively.

We **engage** with wider community groups.

We **reach** the folk that others can't.

We **enhance** Scotland's idea of itself as a forward-looking country.

We **connect** with issues that matter to people in a creative and non-discriminatory manner.

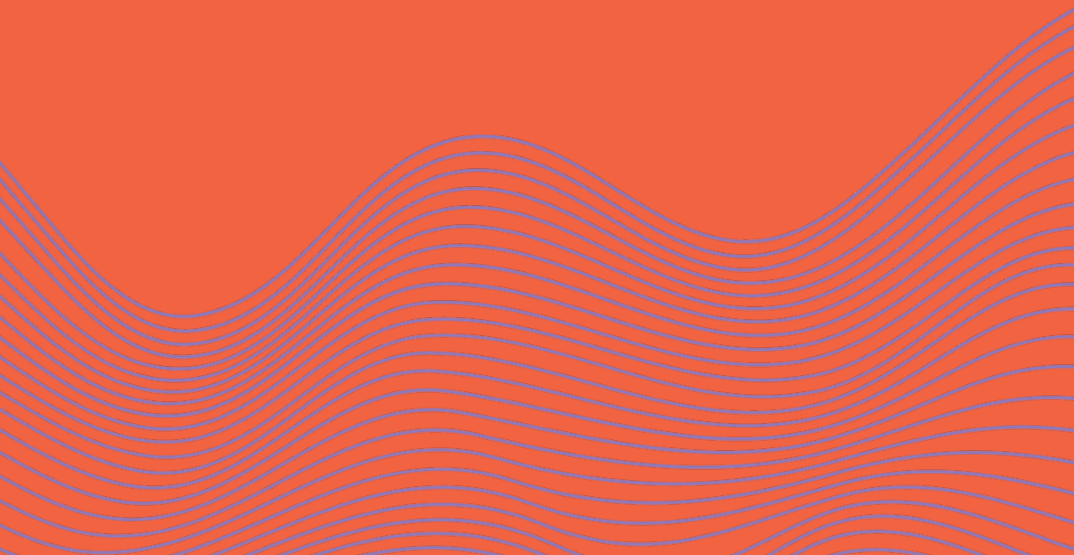
We **contribute** to social cohesion.

We **collaborate** in our work.

# **EVEN**

# **HERE**

**BE AWARE THAT WHILE OUR  
LOCATION CAN HINDER DELIVERY  
AND EXPOSURE OF OUR WORK IT  
DOES NOT DIMINISH ITS QUALITY  
AND RELEVANCE.**



The richness & wealth of creative talent within the island groups offers skills & heritage not found elsewhere.

There is a high quality of traditional & contemporary work produced & presented in the islands.

Through the arts, there is preservation & development of traditional skills specific to each island group.

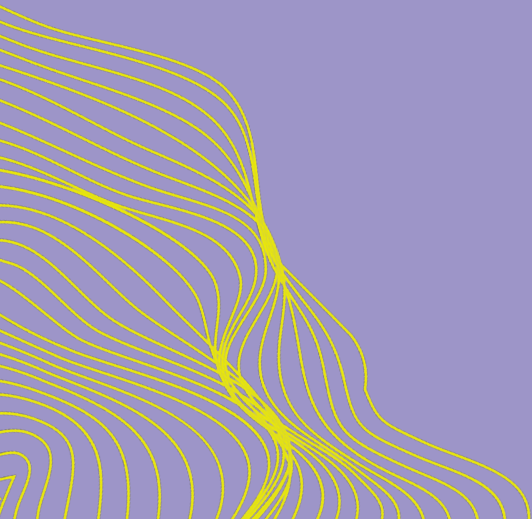
There is an island aesthetic reflected in the work of many island artists that is distinctive.

The island context provides a heightened & tangible awareness of the climate crisis.



# **EVEN THOUGH**

**TIMES ARE HARD, WE NEED  
MORE CREATIVITY TO SURVIVE  
AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS  
COMMUNITIES.**



Local public **transport is limited**, expensive & often affected by weather & aging vessels. Connections, even those within the island groups, are precarious & frequently cancelled.

**Digital connectivity is often insufficient** to mitigate challenges of distance.

Collaborators, networks & peers can often be & **feel far away**.

Connections to mainland Scotland are **expensive**, involving a lot of time including additional overnight stays.

The islands incur **higher energy costs** with a higher percentage of residents living in fuel poverty.

**Distances are a barrier** to opportunities & audiences.

Local expertise, knowledge & resources are frequently **enlisted without compensation**.

# EVEN BETTER

**RECOGNISE THAT ISLAND ARTISTS  
NEED SUPPORT TO WORK TO THEIR  
POTENTIAL.**

**Celebrate** the artist's work in our islands, here & afar.

**Ensure** recompense for creative practitioners, their work, time & knowledge.

**Increase** investment in creative activity including within education & wellbeing.



**Respect** creativity and its contribution to the economy.

**Ensure** recognition, support & visibility for our work.

**Nurture** the next generation of creatives.

**Appreciate** the ability of creative practitioners to problem solve.

**Increase** potential & opportunity for creativity in our communities.

**Utilise** creative roles in defining place.

**Increase** awareness & understanding of people's access requirements.

**Include** those who may be isolated within a community.

**Emphasise** depth of qualitative change and less on quantity.





# **EVEN THERE**

**HIGHLIGHT THE CONTRIBUTION  
& VISIBILITY OF ISLAND ARTISTS  
GLOBALLY.**

**Collaborate** to showcase what we can do beyond our shores.

**Increase** potential from here to there (physical & digital).

**Share** our heritage, traditions & practice with other places benefiting the artists in their development & careers while reflecting the riches of the islands' culture away from home.

**Promote** visibility of Scottish island artists.



# EVEN YOU

**CAN YOU IMAGINE  
A LIFE WITHOUT  
CULTURE?**



**SHETLAND  
ARTS**

Designed &  
Published by  
Shetland Arts



Funded by

