



THE ARTISTS & CRAFTSMEN OF
INVERCLYDE

GARTH IVAN



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INTRODUCTION

Where We Call Home

This is not a comprehensive survey - how could it be? There is simply too much artistic talent and drive to create found here in our small corner of Scotland. Rather, this project has been about capturing dear friends, studio mates, and people I admire who were willing to trust me and step in front of the camera in an effort to try and offer a glimpse into the wide-ranging talent that exists here.

For those familiar with the area, Greenock and Inverclyde are often associated with poverty, crime and struggle - a ghostly reverberation of its former shipbuilding heritage. For those not from here, that reality is a profound shock when surrounded by such natural beauty and deep history. But there is also very much to be proud of here - not least of which is Inverclyde's burgeoning art scene.

Much like the abandoned warehouses of Brooklyn a generation ago, the artists have inhabited the old industrial spaces and empty shopfronts and created a wealth of color, form and ideas out of the silence and the derelict. Their numbers and creative spaces grow by the year, and much of what they have to say deserves to be elevated beyond the region...

- Garth Ivan
Inverclyde, Scotland



Courtesy of the artist

PAINTER & PLAYWRIGHT

Ken McClymont

Ken McClymont was born in Glasgow. After receiving an Elizabeth Greenshields Award for figuration in 1981, he has since continued to paint and exhibit when and wherever possible, including at a Solo Show at Espace Culturel, Leclerc, Gap France, the Office de Tourisme, Forcalquier, France, Rond Point, Marie deVille, Gap, France, Jaune d'Or, l'Abattoir, Embrun, Salon des Arts de la Ville d'Embrun, France, Rozel, Valaurie, France, ArtHouse - Richmond Council Art Weeks 2016, Art Maze, Bargehouse, Oxo Tower, Southbank, London.

He is also an established Theatre Director and designer working mostly with living writers on the London Fringe Theatre circuit.

He divides his time between Hautes Alpes, France and Inverclyde, Scotland.





MASTER KILTMAKER

Ann Campbell

Ann is a qualified Traditional Craft Kilt Maker with an impressive record of hand-sewing over two thousand heirloom items of national dress, which find homes all around the globe - despite having never advertised.

Having embarked on her kilt-making journey after a lengthy and diverse nursing career, Ann approaches each kilt with the same level of dedication and care as she would a patient. With over 25 years of experience, she has crafted kilts for a variety of clientele, including celebrities, titled individuals, a TV drama, and even two pipe bands in Norway.

Her dedication to preserving the artisan skill of kilt making led her to establish and oversee a kilt school for several years in the Scottish Borders. In addition to her craftsmanship, Ann has demonstrated a compassionate side by customizing kilts to accommodate specific disabilities.

Working with the finest Scottish woven tartans brings Ann immense joy, and she considers it a privilege to contribute to the legacy of these traditional garments. Above all, her kilt-making journey has allowed her the honor of meeting wonderful individuals from all corners of the world, sharing in their significant life occasions.





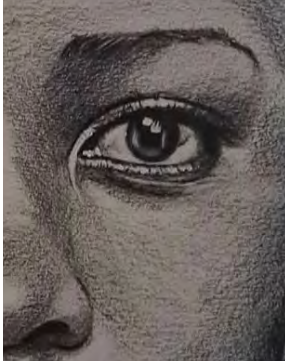
Courtesy of the Inverclyde Shed

CREATIVE SPACES ARCHITECT

Bruce Newlands

Bruce, is an award-winning architect that has dedicated his career to community architecture, emphasizing its transformative power in local neighborhoods. He champions creative place-making, empowering communities to control their common assets, and his passion shines in initiatives fostering collective empowerment. From a pop-up shop supporting small businesses and artists, to co-founding a carbon neutral community shed, he aims to create connection locally and nurture collaboration. He also extends his impact through community growing initiatives, guiding individuals and organizations in food self-sufficiency in Inverclyde.





Courtesy of the artist

ARTIST

Alex Deveney

Using only a pencil, Alex creates portraits that could easily be mistaken for photographs.

Based in Gourock, Scotland, his commissions of any subject matter from pets to celebrities are instantly recognizable and create a genuine emotional connection in their eye contact.





Courtesy of New Licht Limited

DOCUMENTARIAN

Jane McAllister

Jane is a maker of creative, observational documentary films for cinema and television. She directs and edits her own work producing a distinct blend of compassionate, humorous and poetic stories.

Her films to date have won critical acclaim and awards including the Full Frames President's Award and Chicago Film Festivals' Silver Hugo for best short documentary.

'To See Ourselves' is Jane's first feature length documentary.





Courtesy of the artist

SCULPTOR, ART DIRECTOR
& RIG ARTS CO-FOUNDER

Jason Orr

An artist of many hats, Jason works on productions for the BBC, creates sculptural installations found around Inverclyde - including *The Yardsmen*, and he is also active in the operations of Rig Arts, co-founded by himself and his wife Karen.

Through a wide-ranging career as a creative, artist, set designer and art director, he has worked on influential projects both local and national.

One favorite among the many curiosities and memorabilia found in his studios are remnants of wallpaper from Isa's apartment in *Still Game*.





Courtesy of Bruce Newlands

WOODWORKER, CREATIVE SPACES
DEVELOPER

David Watson

David Watson is an award winning furniture designer, creative spaces maker and artist. His unique handmade work has been recognized - receiving the Visual Arts Scotland Award for Applied Arts.

His multi-year project to regenerate a decommissioned Greenock church into a community co-working space and gallery will open opportunities to many across Inverclyde, and his work as a Sculptor celebrates the form and textures of his chosen material through abstract forms.





Courtesy of the artist

PAINTER

Sam Douglas

Sam received his MA in painting from the Royal College of Art London and has held solo shows in Arles, Cambridge, London, Dublin and Edinburgh. His numerous residencies have taken him to the highlands of Scotland, and as far afield as Newfoundland, Norway and Russia.

His use of light in landscape sits comfortably alongside the works of Turner and makes him one of the hidden gems of the Inverclyde arts scene. He works from his studio in Greenock.





Courtesy of the artist

PAINTER

Samantha Cheevers

Samantha explores derelict architectures and vestiges of lost futures that did not turn out as intended.

She collects photography and documentation of these experiences, which become key elements in creating a narrative for her work.

These environments tend to be over exaggerated, whether it be nature taking over the structures or filled with objects, furnishings and even animals related to previous locations, suspending the viewer in ambiguity, not quite knowing which images are related or exist in a realm of their own.





Courtesy of the artist

ARTIST & MANAGER,
WYLLIEUM GALLERY

Willie Sutherland

Willie studied fashion design in the early 1990's however, personal circumstances put his creative career on hold. In early 2021 (his 50th birthday) he made the conscious decision to reinvent himself as an artist taking inspiration from George Wyllie's success at a later age and striving to continue Wyllie's legacy of making art with humour and for everyone.

His first major work was "Evolution of Wa - Self-portrait As A Doll's House" a unique series of dioramas charting his recovery from alcoholism which led to him being invited to exhibit at the CCA in June 2021 during Glasgow International Art Festival.

His work shows a continued interest in the human condition and a desire to pass the message of wellness through creativity to others.

Sutherland uses a variety of medium and scale. His work defies rational determinations, sensitizing views to perception and the unconscious and engages aspects of painting, drawing, sculpture, construction and installation, yet remains whimsical, childlike, and engaging.





Courtesy of the artist

ARTIST
& DIRECTOR, RIG ARTS

Karen Orr

Karen is a co-founder of RIG Arts and a graduate of Glasgow School of Art and the University of the Arts, Poznan when she was awarded a Polish Government Post Graduate Scholarship.

Karen has combined her visual arts background and business skills to develop RIG Arts.

She is also a practicing artist and currently manages RIG Arts leading its strategic objectives, developing partnerships, HR and overseeing the day-to-day running of the organisation.





Courtesy of the artist

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER

George Munro

Keen to pursue a career in film or photography, George left Gourock High School at the earliest opportunity to embark on an apprenticeship with Norman Burniston Photography and Glasgow College of Building and Printing.

After twelve years of working in social photography and specialist work in the shipbuilding, electronics and steel industries, George recognised the difference news journalism and news photography could make to people facing adversity and jumped at the opportunity to join the Greenock Telegraph in setting up the paper's independent darkroom facilities in the mid- 80s.

Although colour photography was certainly nothing new, George produced the first colour picture to appear in the Greenock Telegraph at the turn of the century, before going on to supervise the paper's transition from analogue to digital photography.

George's main objective has been to preserve the importance of honest, unmanipulated photography in modern journalism in the face of a growing public distrust of social media. His efforts were rewarded by parent company Gannett USA Today at an award ceremony held at company headquarters in Washington DC.

George has a deep passion for Inverclyde and its people and lives in Gourock with his wife, Karen.





Courtesy of the artist

MASTER STAINED GLASS
ARTIST

Alec Galloway

Alec Galloway is a Scottish stained glass artist and painter based in Inverclyde on the West coast of Scotland.

His glass work falls into a range of specialisms including; commercial projects, restoration of traditional glass and contemporary gallery based pieces.

Alec regularly collaborates with local artists and businesses - consolidating his place in the community.





Courtesy of Love & Humphries

HEIDELBERG PLATEN PRESS OPERATOR

George Robertson

As a Heidelberg Platen press operator, George works with one of the most iconic pieces of printing machinery in the industry. The Heidelberg Platen, a marvel of engineering, is renowned for its precision and versatility, handling not just standard printing but also specialty processes like embossing, debossing, and foil stamping.

Operating the press requires a deep understanding of both the machine and the materials. While it may seem traditional, the real complexity lies in balancing ink, pressure, and speed to ensure perfect results.

Whether setting up for a fine deboss or intricate foil stamp, George takes pride in working with such a historic piece of equipment, connecting modern print-making with a legacy of craftsmanship.





Courtesy of the artist

SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE
PAINTER

Linda Ross

Linda works from her space at the Old West Kirk Studio and creates captivating impressionist paintings that reflect the ever-changing moods of Scotland's landscapes and seascapes.

With a deep connection to Inverclyde's beautiful coastline, conveying the interplay of light, colour and atmosphere in each piece through expressive brushstrokes and vivid palettes, inviting her viewers to experience the beauty and serenity of Scotland's natural world through her work





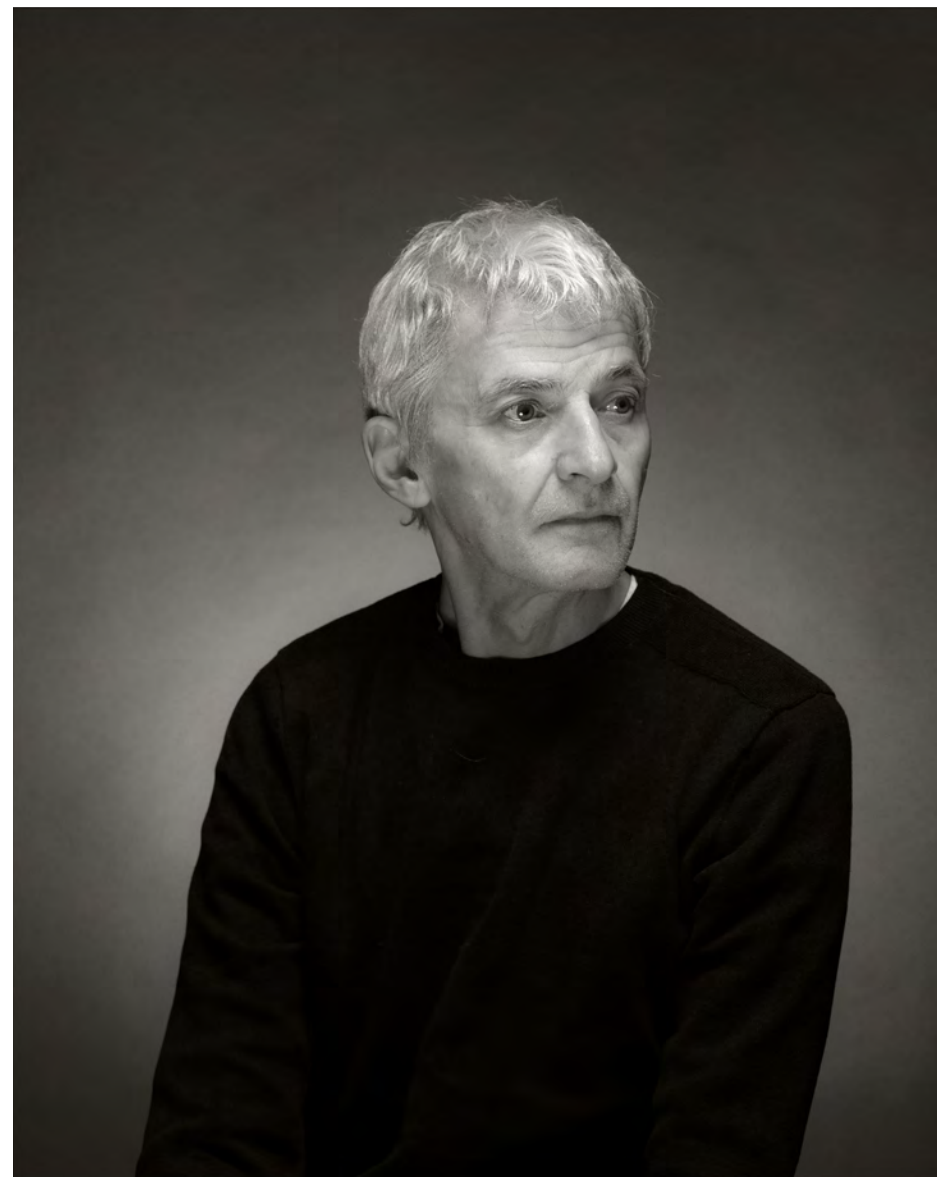
Courtesy of the artist

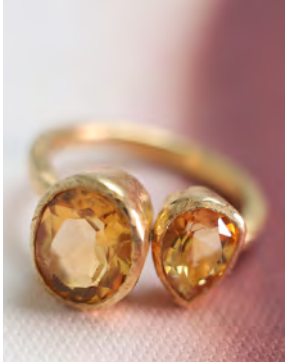
PAINTER
& PHOTOGRAPHER

Mik Grant

Mik is an artist living and working in Inverclyde, on the west coast of Scotland. Working across a variety of creative disciplines including Art, Photography & Music.

A self taught artist, his love of art began as young boy.





Garth Ivan

JEWELLER

Deborah Murdoch

Deborah's work draws inspiration from Scotland's rich history and cultural heritage, especially ancient artefacts. She reinterprets these timeless designs with a modern twist, incorporating ethically sourced, vibrant gemstones that make each piece truly unique.

Using only single mined origin gold (SMO Gold) and recycled precious metals, Deborah ensures her creations are not only beautiful but also sustainable. Her passion for jewellery began during her studies at the Glasgow School of Art, where she mastered traditional techniques.

Each piece is meticulously handcrafted at her studio on the west coast of Scotland, making every design one-of-a-kind. Deborah takes great pride in crafting jewellery of heirloom quality, ensuring it will be treasured for generations.

Her pieces have been commissioned by celebrities and collectors worldwide, and her work can be found in homes around the globe.





Garth Ivan

VISUAL ARTIST

Craig Black

Craig's journey from professional footballer to visual artist was a bold and intentional shift, fuelled by his unwavering belief in his creativity and passion for self-expression. His drive and determination have resulted in the creation of unique artworks that tell compelling stories, spark meaningful connections, and captivate the attention of art buyers, renowned galleries and global brands





Courtesy of the artist

ARTIST
& PRISON ART TUTOR

Catriona Reid

Catriona aims to portray the dynamic balance between movement and stability, both in our landscape and in human connections, from the intimate to fleeting interactions.

As an Offender Learning Art Tutor, she works with incarcerated individuals to provide art education and guidance to help them develop creative skills, self-expression, and emotional well-being.





Courtesy of the artist

SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE
PAINTER

Nicola Young

Nicola Studied at Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow College of Building and Printing and Jordan Hill Glasgow

She has twenty five years teaching experience , 23 of which has been in art at West College Scotland (formerly James Watt College Greenock), working with young learners from across all the local secondary schools

She also teaches adults in Mental Health recovery, and she has been involved in many community projects, including working with Alzheimer's, stroke, brain injury, heart attack recovery patients.

Over the last couple of years Nicola has taken a studio space locally. She is inspired by the ever changing colours and light of the River Clyde and surrounding area and exhibits her work usually twice a year.



| ARTIST BIO |



A photographer and creative based in both Inverclyde and New York, Garth's images have been featured in Politico, Variety, and Deadline, and he has been shortlisted for both the Scottish Portrait Awards and the Royal Photographic Society.

Garth received his Masters in Fine Art from the Savannah College of Art and Design with a focus on film and moving image.

His photographic work evokes the painterly and the mysterious; of secrets revealed without context and spaces abandoned without explanation.

As a both a director and, sr. art director of brand creative, Garth has worked with celebrities, established brands, and emerging artists to create compelling stories.

| THANK YOU |

The Beacon Arts Center • Fraser Taylor & Haxton Studio • The Artists
Deborah • Mom & Ed • Dad & Margo • Agency withHeart



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