

# SANE Creative Awards Scheme

The SANE Creative Awards Scheme aims to improve the quality of life of people with mental health problems, their families and carers, by helping them fulfil their creative potential. The scheme will make grants to individuals to enable them to engage in creative and educational activities.



"When I became ill I thought the world was inaccessible and fragmented. My art carries me through my illness and SANE has been both my inspiration and safe haven.....my hope is to create a façade that shows a completeness beyond, which can be ultimately reassuring for other people. No one's life is wasted however bad, sick or unhappy they are."

- Anthony Cleyndert

Anthony was a recipient of a previous art award from SANE. He lives with schizophrenia and is now an accomplished artist working in oil painting, printmaking and stained glass.

The scheme builds on the tradition of awards given by SANE under its previous art awards scheme and invites proposals for visual art. For the purposes of the scheme, visual art encompasses all forms of painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, mixed media and digital art.

For the first set of awards, we will be focusing on proposals for visual art only. We would, however, welcome it if these could include a brief written description of how the art reflects and communicates a person's individual experiences.

Awards will be given to cover or contribute to the cost of materials, specific projects, training courses or towards providing replacement care in the case of carers who apply. They will range from £75 to £300.

Applications will be selected by a panel which will include skilled and experienced artists.

"What comforts me a little is that I am beginning to consider madness as a disease like any other and accept the thing as such, whereas during the crises themselves, I thought that everything I imagined was real."

- Vincent Van Gogh

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**To Apply** applicants will need to submit the following:

- A letter about themselves, the reason for applying and the potential benefits of an award;
- An application form containing personal information;
- A reference from a mental health professional or in the case of a carer, a personal reference;
- Examples of previous work where applicable.

Marjorie Wallace, SANE's Chief Executive, says: "Exploring the relationship between art, mental illness, creativity and human experience is central to our ethos.

"There is no doubt in my mind that people who are mentally fragile can find hitherto undiscovered reserves of skill, talent and other creative resources which they can usually only harness if given encouragement and financial support to develop."

The scheme is not open to applications for proposals in other art forms, for group projects or in pursuit of other educational or political aims.



Above: 'Iris' by Bryan Charnley, who suffered from schizophrenia: the three flags of the iris symbolised for him faith, hope and courage.

Top right: Stained glass window at the Prince of Wales International Centre for SANE Research by Anthony Cleyndert. Previous page: 'Surrender' by Anthony Cleyndert.

For further information please contact Thomas Andrews on 020 3805 1790, [tandrews@sane.org.uk](mailto:tandrews@sane.org.uk) or by writing to him at SANE, St Mark's Studios, 14 Chillingworth Road, London, N7 8QJ.

**SANE** is a leading UK mental health charity set up in 1986 to improve the quality of life for anyone affected by mental illness. Its three main aims are to raise awareness and combat stigma about mental illness, educating and campaigning to improve mental health services; to promote treatments for mental illness at its flagship Prince of Wales International Centre for SANE Research; and to provide guidance and emotional support to people with mental health problems, their families and carers through its helpline, SANEline, Textcare and other services. For more information, please visit [www.sane.org.uk](http://www.sane.org.uk).

SANE is working in partnership on the scheme with the **Open College of the Arts**, the distance learning arm of the University of the Creative Arts. They will be providing advice, guidance and members of the awards judging panel.