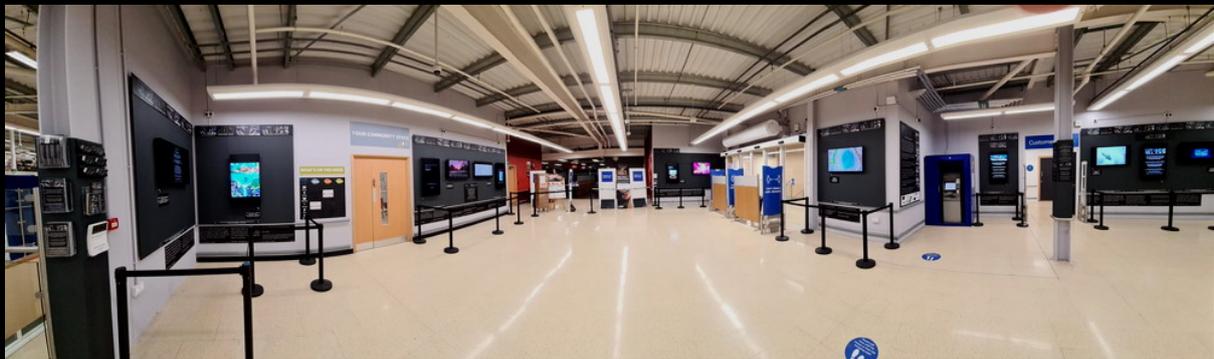


Mental Health Physical Disabilities  
Well-being  
Photography Crafts Collages  
Pastels  
Drawing Painting  
Supportive Ability Sexuality  
Gender De-stigmatised Race

TM

# Disabled Artists' Network CIC

Community Interest Company



# Exhibiting & Networking With Us

18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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## Version 1



## Version 2



## Version 3



### Background

In 2013, I launched a series of rolling exhibitions to raise awareness of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and to promote creativity as a coping mechanism for disability. My poetry raised awareness of what living with PTSD feels like, while my photography demonstrated my escape from the 'Chains of PTSD'.

Through feedback from exhibition visitors, one issue was made clear to me: there is still a lot of ignorance about mental health related conditions in society, not just PTSD. I was given examples of that ignorance as people relayed stories of how they'd been mistreated by professionals because of

their mental health issues. There is also a tremendous amount of ignorance about the link between physical health and mental health. If people with mental health conditions are isolated and stay indoors without any exercise, they can develop physical health issues. If active, social people find themselves isolated because of a physical injury they can develop a mental health condition.

The global pandemic has greatly increased the numbers of people living with mental health difficulties ... in all countries.

I started working on setting up Disabled Artists' Network in 2015. I wanted to give others a chance to tell their own story about creativity and disability and how it's helped them to survive. I didn't rule out non-disabled artists but I needed to prioritise raising the profiles of disabled artists in our communities. It's free to exhibit your art with DAN and you don't have to live in the local area; we have an international membership. It's a chance for artists to tell their own story and inspire others to do the same. The exhibition venue is Tesco Extra, Jennison Street, Nottingham NG6 8EQ.

In March 2018, we became Disabled Artists' Network CIC (Community Interest Company). No one in DAN CIC gets a salary or claims expenses. We're all volunteers – at every level in the organisation.

There is also an online version of the exhibitions on [www.wolf-photography.com](http://www.wolf-photography.com).

### **Advantages of exhibiting with the Disabled Artists' Network CIC (DAN CIC)**

Some organisations insist on an established track record of exhibiting one's art to secure grants. This creates a 'chicken and egg' scenario for many people; how do you create an exhibition if you don't have enough money to pay to frame your pieces and/or pay the hire fee of the exhibition space? Exhibiting with DAN is a great way for an artist to launch their art career because there are no fees involved and there are no age restrictions. The youngest exhibitor

we have had was 5 years old and the oldest was 86.

Anyone choosing to exhibit with us has already started to build their reputation as an artist and we've already helped a few people to establish themselves as exhibiting artists.

The application process is simple and we have team members ready to help anyone encountering any difficulties. There is no exhibition fee to exhibit with DAN.



DAN V1 exhibited at the Indian Community Centre Association, Nottingham. The V2 exhibit was at our current venue. DAN V3 is shown in the panoramic image above and gives you an idea of how much space we have. The space is approximately 380 square metres.

### **DAN Version 3 – Coping With Covid**

Covid has had a serious impact on the work we do in the community as the Disabled Artists' Network CIC (DAN CIC). As the group name suggests, most of our members are particularly vulnerable to Covid.

As the pandemic began to take hold, I made the decision to suspend all activities in our current venue to safeguard our vulnerable artists. Before that time we were changing exhibitions of art, crafts, poetry and photography every 2 months. We are now a digital exhibition site.

### **Improving Access to DAN**

By going totally digital in our exhibition space we have further opened up the opportunity for disabled people to exhibit with us. They won't have to bring their artwork in and it will be a less stressful experience for people with mental health difficulties, as everything can be done online, catered to individual but flexible deadlines.

We have always had an international membership but not as far reaching as I'd like because of the cost of transporting artwork to us. With a completely digital platform that barrier has gone. Anyone can exhibit with us from any country, providing they have an internet connection and a mobile device with which to photograph their art. Likewise, photographers wanting to exhibit with us do not have to worry about sending us framed images for individual photography exhibitions ... and the screens improve the way we display our poetry too.

The venue has 13 display screens dedicated to different areas of the arts. Screens 1-6 display the artists, crafters, sculptors, photographers etc. Screens 7 & 8 display Living with PTSD and Intimacy with plants – the exhibitions responsible for the formation of DAN. Screens 9 & 13 display small videos and animations. Screen 10 displays poetry. The content is also shown on: [https://www.wolf-photography.com/html/DAN/Current\\_exhibitors.html](https://www.wolf-photography.com/html/DAN/Current_exhibitors.html).

### **Artists Application Pack**

The pack is available on <https://www.wolf-photography.com/downloads/ExhibitDAN.pdf>.

### **How You Can Get Involved**

We're looking for partners that want to share the work of our artists. You need to be an organisation, community minded business or a community group that cares about people and the link between art and well-being.

All you need to have is some wall space; all you have to do is purchase the right screen(s) with the right software licence.

## **Screen Options & Costs in the UK**

1 screen – display the artists statement PDFs only (includes images of their art)

2 Screens – display all the statements and full screen art

4 Screens - display all the statements, full screen art and camera club

### **Cost of 1 Screen and Software**

Samsung QH43R - £910 (RRP £1050)

MB Bracket - £25 (RRP £35)

Samsung MagicINFO licence - £240 (RRP £300)

MagicINFO Hosting - £150 per year per screen (RRP £180)

All prices are ex-vat and are subject to a delivery fee. Please contact Nick Hill via <https://www.knowledge.uk.com>.

If you are outside of the UK, you need to contact your Samsung office for pricing and ensure that they can get you onto our server before you pay them anything. <https://www.samsung.com>.

There is no charge from us but donations towards our running costs are welcome on:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted\\_button\\_id=KCGHC8U58U8K4](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=KCGHC8U58U8K4)

### **What's in it for your organisation?**

You get to take part in an important project that can, hopefully, make a lot of difference to a person living with some form of mental and/or physical disability.

### **What do we get out of it?**

We help artists tell their story and display their art...and we help to inspire others to use creativity as a coping mechanism for disability – particularly mental health issues.

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