

# joining pool arts:

Dear

Thankyou for your enquiry about joining Pool Arts. As you know, Pool Arts is an arts organisation, established in 1999, run by and for its members. It is an organisation that aims to provide a supportive network, training, exhibition opportunities and eventually studio spaces for artists who experience mental or emotional distress. We are based in the Longsight and Ardwick area of Manchester and welcome people of all backgrounds.

Our members are expected to take part in the running of Pool Arts by attending regular meetings, taking on responsibilities within the group and participating in organisational matters (Pool Arts has no paid staff and relies on the work of the members).

To apply to join we ask you to write us a letter. In the letter we ask you to tell us a little about yourself and include

- What you hope to get from joining the group
- About your art work and other interests you have – you could send us some photos if you like.
- What experience of mental or emotional distress you have (this need not be in great detail – we do not ask for medical references)
- How do you feel you will be able to help run the group (what experience / time available you have)

Your letter will be read by the secretary of Pool Arts and one other person, either Alison Kershaw (based at St Lukes Art Project Longsight) who is an artist / advisor to the group or another member of the group.

*The contents of your letter will be treated in the strictest confidence* and a short outline of your work will be presented to the management group with a recommendation for you to join if you meet the criteria. After we receive your letter we will reply to you after our next meeting. The meetings are monthly, so you may wait up to 6 weeks to hear from us. If you feel uncomfortable writing a letter, we can arrange an informal interview with a couple of people instead.

After that, you will be invited to attend 3 meetings and visit the studio. You will be given a copy of our constitution to read and an information pack. You will not be able to vote at these meetings, but it will be a chance to meet other members, show us your work and see what is happening at the moment. Following the 3 meetings, we will decide together with you whether you are able to join the group. Reasons you would not be accepted are to do with unacceptable behaviour, details of which you will find in the information pack.

Anyone who joins the group is eligible to become a director of the company and a charity trustee, so it is important that you understand how the group works and what part you will play.

If you have any further questions please ring 01612731492. This is an answer phone, checked on Mondays and Tuesdays, so please bear with us in getting back to you.

Thanks again for your enquiry and we look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

POOL ARTS