

Dedicated to contemporary art and ideas, Hospitalfield is a place to work, study, learn, visit and enjoy



The first action of those entrusted with carrying out Patrick Allan Fraser's wish to make Hospitalfield a place where artists could work and find inspiration was to build new studios. In use for over a century they are beautifully designed - high ceilinged and flooded with clear northern light. But they are also very cold in winter and they are beginning to show their age. We badly need now to insulate and refurbish the studios and to add new facilities for video and sound.

Much of the money has already been raised but we need now to complete the funding so that we can have the studios back in operation for 2020. Please help us if you can.

- Sir Mark Jones
Chair of the Hospitalfield Trust

This page: 1902 studio.
Next Page Patrick Allan Fraser studio built c. 1845
Images: Ruth Clark

The studios are at the heart of Hospitalfield's charitable purpose; supporting and creating space for artists of our time. They have been in use for over a hundred years and now, at the beginning of the 21st century it is time for these buildings to be restored and updated to make them fit for purpose for the next century and beyond. In addition the Trust will commission a new studio, a 21st century artist's working space. Designed by architects Caruso St John, this new building will add to the site, bringing the story of the design of bespoke buildings for artists right up to date.



After his marriage in 1843 to Elizabeth Fraser, the artist Patrick Allan Fraser settled at Hospitalfield. One of his first actions was to design and build his own painting studio. This relatively modest scaled building remains today, just as it was designed, complete with vast stone fireplace and timber panelling. The ingenious window systems allow an excellent quality of north and east light and we know that many of the paintings that form part of the 19th century collection at Hospitalfield were made in this studio.

Patrick's studio went on to be used throughout the 20th and now the 21st centuries, featuring in many of the archive images and sometimes pictured in the 20th century paintings. Patrick's death in 1890 heralded a re-think of Hospitalfield from private home to art college. By 1902 the Trust completed two additional studios. These generous, high ceilinged spaces, with vast north facing windows or 'lights', were influenced by the design of other art school buildings of their day. They were constructed from the same soft, red sand stone as the House itself and were designed with a connecting corridor to Patrick's earlier 19th century red brick studio.

These buildings created a complex of three unique working spaces for artists soon to be joined by a fourth. The Trust asks you to join us and to support us in completing this important project.

Top: James Cowie in the Hospitalfield Studios with young artists including Frances Stewart (at the front), 1940. Thanks to Susie Leiper daughter of Frances Stewart.

Bottom: Sir Peter Blake, guest artist 1975 shown here with student group.

Top right and bottom right: Damage to the interior of the studios, due to dry rot, and to the dilapidated side entrance porch of the Patrick Allan Fraser Studio.



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