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COMPUTER ART COURSE IS A ROARING SUCCESS

Edinburgh-based charity Ecas is to fund additional places on its computer art course following an overwhelming response to its pilot scheme.

Ecas started the new class in January, with the aim of helping those whose physical disability makes drawing or painting difficult. After an excellent response to requests for people with physical disabilities to join the trial, Ecas has now been able to declare it a success and secure funding to extend the project – both by starting a new course and by running a more advanced course for existing clients.

Ecas has equipment for seven class members to ensure that each student receives sufficient tuition. Whilst some students had prior computing and art experience it was not an essential element. By using a graphics pad and a paint programme, participants could use a range of materials from pencil to oil paint and then print their work on good-quality paper.

Crucially, Ecas has now secured funding to subsidise a new group to start after Easter and, for those who meet certain criteria, the course is free and support with transport costs is also available. The range of physical disabilities is very wide, including MS, cerebral palsy, various mobility and communications impairments, severe arthritis and visual impairments.

Participant Elaine Boyd said: “It’s brilliant to have the whole range of art materials on the computer and this equipment makes me more independent. Who knows what I could create? Another advantage doing art this way is it is less messy and it is easy to put away.”



David Griffiths, chief executive of Ecas, said "It is wonderful that this trial has been such a success – the lessons learned will be useful to many other groups. I am absolutely delighted that we have identified funding to keep the current group together for more advanced work, and to heavily subsidise a new group. After Easter we will start a new class and anyone who would like to join should contact Ecas on 0131 475 2344 or info@ecas-edinburgh.org.

"This class complements our existing craft, yoga, swimming, art and computing classes very well and we have set aside Wednesdays for anyone with a physical disability to use the equipment as an internet café or to practice their art."

For more details or to apply for an Ecas course or grant contact 0131 475 2344, email info@ecas-edinburgh.org or visit www.ecas-edinburgh.org

Ends

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