
Artists'
Collecting
Society
2024 - 2025
Transparency
Report

Cover Image
Evening Jog, 2023 © Laura Footes (ACS Member)

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Note from the Chairman, Viscountess Bridgeman CBE

It is now seventeen years since I founded the Artists' Collecting Society (ACS) at the request of leading artists and Art Market Professionals to collect the recently introduced royalty known as the Artist's Resale Right. I am delighted to say that, since 2006, ACS has gone from strength to strength.

The Artists' Collecting Society now represents a diverse range of artists and artists' estates. Our members include an interesting mixture of seminal artists such as Lucian Freud, Stanley Spencer, Barbara Hepworth, Paula Rego, Frank Auerbach, Leon Kossoff, Maggi Hambling, Mat Collishaw and David Remfry, as well as burgeoning artists such as Albert Willem, Allison Katz, Djordje Ozbolt, Felix Treadwell and Cristina BanBan. These names are just a small selection of the over 1,700 + artists and artists' estates which have chosen ACS to represent them.

Over the years, our membership has grown. However, at the heart of the Artist's Resale Right is the idea that artists and their estates should benefit from the increasing value of their work. After all, there would be no art without artists. This underlying principle is one of the reasons that I founded ACS as a Community Interest Company. One of the many attractions for our members is the fact that any surplus income is locked into the company and used for the benefit of its member artists and the artistic community – with a particular emphasis on education, rehabilitation, and younger, emerging artists.

The number of royalties we have administered this year has also enabled us to renew the hugely popular ACS Studio Prize and ACS Studio Residency at the City & Guilds of London Art School, as well as establish the inaugural ACS Glasgow Sculpture Studios Fellowship. These prizes were set up in response to feedback from our member artists, many of whom struggled when transitioning from a student to a professional artist and this was exacerbated by the difficulty of finding affordable studio space. This problem remains a serious issue in our current economic climate as rents rise at an alarming rate. We have also renewed our Annual Prize for a student at the Royal Academy Schools and for a graduate at the Royal Drawing Schools, among others.

Our Community Interest initiatives, however, go beyond prizes and awards. In 2010, we delivered our first talk on intellectual property rights to a group of artists. Since then, the demand for talks has grown. In the 2024 - 2025 period, the ACS team has virtually travelled the length and breadth of the country. Using video conferencing tools, the team has been able to deliver widely requested talks on the practical application of intellectual property rights at colleges, universities, and galleries alike.

The above is just a small selection of what we have achieved over the 2024 - 2025 period, and credit of our many achievements is of course very much due to Kimberley Ahmet, our excellent Managing Director and her highly efficient team. We also very much value the support of our directors. We look forward to continuing to serve our members and the artistic community in the years ahead.



Turbine. Found Poetry © Sterling Ruby (ACS Member)

Transparency Report Introduction

ACS is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company dedicated to the administration of the Artist's Resale Right and copyright. We collect and distribute Artist's Resale Right and copyright royalties to visual artists and artists' estates which have specifically mandated us to do so. ACS administers the Artist's Resale Right in line with the UK Artist's Resale Right Regulations (2006 & 2011), and the UK's Intellectual Property (Copyright and Related Rights) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 which implement European Directive 2001/84/EC.

ACS was founded at the request of artists and Art Market Professionals (auction houses, galleries, and dealers) who were worried about the monopolistic implications of having only one collecting society dedicated to the administration of the Artist's Resale Right and who recognised the need for a transparent, fair and professional society that puts artists' needs first. As a Community Interest Company, ACS operates solely for the benefit of its member artists and the artistic community. This means that any surplus income (following the deduction of administration costs) is locked into the company and must be used to benefit ACS' members or the artistic community. This is done through a range of sponsorships and bursaries that support individual artists, artistic organisations and charities. You can read more about these activities here.

ACS collects the Artist's Resale Right and copyright royalties on behalf of its members. In order to ensure collection of Artist's Resale Right outside the UK, ACS also uses the services of a number of European collecting societies. If a foreign collecting society's commission is higher than the ACS commission rate, where legally possible, ACS will always collect directly from Art Market Professionals in that country. This ensures that ACS member artists and estates are never charged more than is absolutely necessary.

The ACS Board of Directors is split between ACS members who are visual artists and non-ACS members who are appointed for the contribution they make to the board. These are all individuals who are closely involved with artists, either in their capacity as trustees for estates of important twentieth-century artists, as art dealers or in a variety of positions closely related to the contemporary art world. You can see a full list of our Directors here.

Accountability and Governance

ACS is governed by a Board of Directors, which consists of twelve members. ACS always endeavours to appoint artists or artists' estates who are represented by ACS for the Artist's Resale Right to constitute half of this membership. The other Directors consist of copyright experts, dealers, curators, art consultants and legal professionals. Each Director is appointed for a period of three years at the end of which they are eligible for re-appointment for a further term of three years. You can find a full list of our Board of Directors on page 1 of ACS' Micro Entity Accounts.

The Board of Directors meets once a year for an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in which they discuss the company's activities and developments over the previous year. They also discuss possible future developments and upcoming events. All members of ACS can contact us to discuss any issues that they would like discussed during the AGMs. Members of ACS will be notified of any major changes or decisions made at an AGM.

As a company that qualified as small under section 382(1) to (6) of the Companies Act 2006(c), ACS, per section 8(3) of the Retained EU Law Reform Intellectual Property: The Design Right, Artist's Resale Right and Copyright (Amendment) Regulations 2024, is no longer obligated to perform an independent audit of this report.

For information on issues that have arisen in previous years, please see our Annual Reports.

Represented Artists

ACS currently represents over 1,600 visual artists including painters, sculptors, photographers, street artists, cartoonists and artists working in glass and ceramics.

Membership of Organisations

ACS is a full member of CISAC, BCC and ICOM. As a member of the British Copyright Council, ACS was instrumental in the establishment of the UK collecting societies' Code of Conduct.

The 2024 – 2025 Financial Year Overview

The 2024 - 2025 turnover was **£2,587,863** which represents just over a 1.2% decrease when compared to the previous financial year.

As a Community Interest Company we endeavour to keep our operating costs to a minimum. By doing so, we are able to re-invest any surplus income back into the artistic community. ACS' operating costs decreased by nearly 1.2% in the 2024 - 2025 period. The majority of this decrease can be attributed to reduction in printing, entertainment and Office Stationery.

We are proud to announce, that largely due to the decrease in turnover, ACS was able to commit **£5,000.00** to sponsorship.

Challenges

ACS faced similar challenges to previous years. Art Market Professionals who refuse to submit sales information continue to be a problem, particularly as the legislation does not provide a system by which they can be forced to disclose information. Furthermore, discrepancies between different countries' interpretation and implementation of the legislation can often cause confusion with art dealers, artists and auction houses.

Balance Sheet

An analysis of assets and liabilities as of 31 May 2025 is provided as follows:

	£
Fixed assets	
Tangible assets	2,596.82
Current assets	
Debtors	642,523.83
Cash at bank and in hand	1,363,789.08
Total assets	2,008,909.73
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2,000,591.68
Reserves	
Profit and loss account	8,318.05
	2,008,909.73



Elle, 1969 © Helmut Newton Foundation (ACS Member)

Artist's Resale Right

The Artist's Resale Right is a royalty generated on the sale price of original works of art that are sold on the secondary market, through an Art Market Professional (an auction house, gallery or dealer). In the UK, ARR is currently collected from the sales of works by both living and deceased artists. However, for the first six years of its operation the right only applied to secondary sales of work by living artists. This was due to the exemption that the government secured from the application of ARR to sale of works by deceased artists. As of 1 January 2012, this exemption came to an end and the right was extended to the secondary sales of works by deceased artists in the UK.
Following the UK's departure from the European Union, the Artist's Resale Right regulations were amended by the Government to reflect both the UK's position outside the EU, and its commitment to continue to provide the right to foreign nationals on a reciprocal basis.

Under Article 14ter of the Berne Convention and provisions in the UK/EU TCA, UK nationals and nationals of countries (including EU member states) that recognise the resale rights of UK nationals will continue to receive resale rights in the UK now that we have left the EU.

When Artist's Resale Right was introduced into UK law in 2006, the threshold at which it would apply was set at €1,000. However, on 16 October 2024, HM Government announced that all references to Euros found in the Artist's Resale Right regulations would be replaced with Sterling. Thus, Artist's Resale Right generated from UK sales concluded from 1 April 2025 are calculated in GBP.

Under the UK regulations, the Artist's Resale Right can only be administered by a registered collecting society, requiring artists or their estates to mandate a collecting society, such as ACS, to do so on their behalf.

The right of Australian nationals to royalties in respect of secondary sales made in the UK was introduced on 31 March 2025. This right was further extended to nationals of New Zealand on 1 December 2025. Consequently, visual artists who are nationals of the UK, European Economic Area (EEA), Australia or New Zealand, and their estates, qualify for the Artist's Resale Right and can therefore appoint ACS to administer their Artist's Resale Right. This is done by signing a mandate agreement. You can see a sample copy of this agreement here. By doing so, the artist or estate appoints ACS as the sole body that can collect the Artist's Resale Right on their behalf in the UK, EEA, Australia and New Zealand. There are no fees or membership costs to register with ACS.

Once appointed to collect the Artist's Resale Right on behalf of an artist or artist's estate, ACS will track sales of the artist's or artist's estate's work throughout the UK, EEA, Australia and New Zealand. This is done through a variety of methods, including a sales information request which is sent to Art Market Professionals throughout the UK every quarter. Royalties are then collected from the sellers and distributed directly to the artist or their estate at the end of the month in which they are received. These royalties are calculated using the sliding scale, as outlined in the UK legislation. Please see our Artist's Resale Right calculator for more details. Distributed royalties are accompanied by a payment statement which details:

the title of the work(s) sold
where the work(s) was / were sold
the date of the sale of the work(s)
the sale price of the work(s)
the Artist's Resale Right royalties that apply
the 15% deduction of ACS commission
the net payment made to the artist or the estate.

As ACS does not charge fees or membership costs, we cover our administration costs by deducting a 15% commission from royalties collected.

ACS members can terminate their agreement with ACS for the collection of Artist's Resale Right by providing three months' notice in writing.

Artist's Resale Right Distributions

The Artist's Resale Right is a royalty generated on the sale price of original works of art that are sold on the secondary market throughout the UK, EEA, Australia and New Zealand.

In the 2024 – 2025 financial year ACS had a turnover of £2,587,863 and distributed £2,238,822 of Artist's Resale Right royalties to its members. For a more detailed breakdown, please see the table on page 11.

	£
Opening balance of payments due to artists	1,976,168
Collections in the year	2,353,718
Less amounts distributed in the year	(2,443,299)
Less other payments	(133,457)
Closing balance of payments due to artists	1,753,130

	31 May 2025	31 May 2024
ARR	2,585,253	2,918,638
Other	2,610.00	3,290.00
Turnover	2,587,863	2,921,928
Artist ARR	(2,238,822)	(2,527,848)
Other	10.00	26.44
Cost of sales	2,238,812	2,527,822
Net income	349,051	394,106

In order to ensure that our members receive the Artist's Resale Right royalties that they are due throughout Europe, ACS has agreements with a number of European collecting societies. These include **ADAGP** (France), **Bild-Kunst** (Germany), **Bildrecht** (Austria), **BUS** (Sweden), **LITA** (Slovakia), **Pictoright** (Netherlands)**, SABAM** (Belgium), **SIAE** (Italy), **SPAUTORES** (Portugal), **VEGAP** (Spain) and **VISDA** (Denmark). You can find a full list of our sister societies here. If a foreign collecting society's commission is higher than 15%, where legally possible, ACS will always collect directly from Art Market Professionals in the respective country. This ensures that the artist or estate is never charged more than is absolutely necessary. Unless otherwise specified, ACS deducts 15% commission from royalties collected.

In the 2024 – 2025 financial year, ACS received £266,221.41 in Artist's Resale Right from its sister collecting societies on behalf of its members: £10,176.41 from **Bildrecht** after their commission of 10%, £69,252.21 from **Bild-Kunst** after their commission of 22%, £1,397.23 from **Pictoright** after their commission of 15%, £8,557.89 from **VISDA** after their commission of 15%, £8,960.67 from **SABAM** after their commission of 15%, £10,451.01 from **Spautores** after their commission of 7.5%, £129,625.25 from **ADAGP** after their commission of 18% and £2,266.53 from **Bildupphovsrätt i Sverige** after their commission of 25%, £1,771.15 **VEGAP** after their commission of 20% £23,763.06 **SIAE** after their average commission of 19%.

When a foreign collecting society's commission is equal to or higher than 15% ACS will not deduct further commission.



Non-Distributable Amounts

Once appointed to collect the Artist's Resale Right on behalf of an artist or artist's estate, ACS will track sales of the artist's or artist's estate's work throughout the UK, EEA, Australia and New Zealand. This is done through a variety of methods, including a sales information request which is sent to Art Market Professionals throughout the UK every quarter. Royalties are then collected from the sellers and distributed directly to the artist or their estate at the end of the month in which they are received.

As the names of the rights holders are known in all sales subject to the Artist's Resale Right, of works by ACS members, and payments are made on a net individual basis, there is normally no non-distributable income. However, at the end of the financial year, there was £201,383.94 of Artist's Resale Right royalties waiting to be paid to ACS rights holders. This figure pertains to royalties for eighty-seven member artists whose estates or mandates are in the process of being finalised. A further £78,127.49 transferred to ACS in the final days of the 2024 - 2025 period was held, as per our payment terms and conditions, and paid out in the following financial period.

Copyright

The ACS copyright service manages copyright on behalf of artists and artists' estates who have appointed us to do so. It was established to increase the income of artists and their estates and to relieve them of the administrative burden of handling the copyright themselves. We will always insist that the artist or artist's estate is fully credited when any of their images are reproduced. We also endeavour to police all reported licensing infringements and to act accordingly and will provide advice and support if a member's work is used without permission. Our service is personalised to provide for the wishes of our members so that artists and artists' estates are able to maintain total control over the usage and distribution of their work. Furthermore, artists and artists' estates are able to specify instances in which they might wish copyright fees to be waived.

Artists and their estates can appoint ACS to manage their copyright by signing a five-year contract. You can see a sample copy of the ACS copyright agreement here. There are no fees or membership costs to register with ACS for the management of copyright.

We charge copyright fees for all usages of the work of our members on behalf of the artist or artist's estate. You can see a copy of our standard copyright fees here. To view our standard copyright licence please click here. Copyright fees are paid to our artists or artists' estates on a quarterly basis with a statement detailing the following:

- the title of the work(s) used
- how / where the work(s) was / were used
- the company that requested the use
- the medium of the use
- the exchange rate (if applicable)
- the royalty paid
- the percentage of the royalty that the artist or artist's estate receives
- the net payment made to the artist or their estate.

As ACS does not charge fees or membership costs, we cover our administration costs by deducting a 25% commission from royalties collected. ACS members can terminate their agreement with ACS for the management of their copyright by providing seven days' notice in writing.

Copyright Distributions

In the 2024 – 2025 financial year, ACS administered £1,938.00 in copyright royalties on behalf of its members.

Distribution of Royalties

Members are paid royalties based on the portion of the royalty they are entitled to receive. Living artists are, for example, entitled to 100% of the Artist's Resale Right. However, where multiple beneficiaries have inherited a royalty, the percentage per beneficiary will naturally be lower.

ACS distributes all Artist's Resale Right royalties to all members at the end of the month in which they are received, providing we hold current and correct correspondence and bank details. Payments are normally transferred on the last working day of the month. The distribution includes all royalties that were paid to ACS on or before the 24 of each month. Copyright royalties are paid to all members on a quarterly basis.

The total of each payment must reach the ACS payment threshold of £20. If the total payment due does not reach the £20 payment threshold, the monies will be held until subsequent royalties are collected. Payment will then be made at the end of the month in which the threshold has been reached. For overseas payments the threshold is £40.

ACS only administers royalties on behalf of artists and artists' estates for whom we hold a mandate. By doing so we hope to ensure that we are able to pay all royalties as and when they are received.

If payment is returned to ACS due to incorrect details, the royalties will be held until the member can be contacted and the correct payment details can be provided. Payment will be made at the end of the month in which the correct details have been provided.

If royalties are non-distributable, ACS will do its utmost to locate the correct rights holder(s) in order to pay them. If after six years ACS is not able to locate the correct rights holders, ACS will return the royalties to the source from whence they came.



Operating Costs, Directors Remuneration, Charitable Giving & Benefits to the Artistic Community

ACS is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company dedicated to the administration of the Artist's Resale Right and copyright of visual artists. ACS has a total of seven members of staff, two of whom are part-time, and 12 Directors. In the 2024 – 2025 financial year, ACS' operating costs, including, but not limited to, salaries, totalled £348,810. ACS does not have separate departments per categories of rights. ACS' Directors did not receive any renumeration in the 2024 – 2025 financial period. The average administrative cost ratio relative to total rights revenue in the 2024 – 2025 financial period was 13.4%.

ACS takes its status as a Community Interest Company very seriously. This year we were pleased to support a number of worthwhile causes and continue to work towards making a substantial difference to the lives of artists, both those whom we represent and those who are just beginning their careers. We renewed our award to a Royal Academy Schools third-year student, assisting them with financing their crucial final show, as well as our award to a Royal Drawing Schools graduate. We also renewed our prize at City & Guilds of London Art School and Glasgow School of Art. Further, ACS sponsored a prize for the Koestler Trust, and gave various prizes for emerging artists. As a Community Interest Company, ACS does not deduct any amounts for the purpose of social, cultural, and educational services. However, if at the end of the financial year any surplus income remains, it is legally locked into the company and has to be used to benefit the artistic community. In the 2024 – 2025 financial year, ACS allocated £5,000 in total to a range of different social activities. You can find out more about some of ACS' CIC highlights here. If you would like to receive a full list of ACS' CIC associated initiatives in the 2024 – 2025 financial period, please get in touch with a member of the team here.

The ACS Transparency Report has been prepared in accordance with the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016.

Approval

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities in ensuring that the company's Annual Transparency Report complies with Regulation 21 of the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016 and is in accordance with the underlying financial and non-financial information used to prepare it.

Approved by members on 1 December 2025

Viscountess Bridgeman CBE (Chairman)

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NOTE ON THE REPORT: The parts of the Collective Management of Copyright (EU Directive) Regulations 2016's Annual Transparency Report that have not been covered, as they do not apply to the Artists' Collecting Society or our dealings in the 2024 – 2025 financial period, are listed as follows: 21.4.c, e, g, h (i,ii), i (ii, iii,iv, vii), j (iv), k (iv); 5.a & b & 21.2.b.