1. **Name**

The name of the group shall be **Gorey Art Collective.**

1. **Aims, Objectives and Ethos of the Gorey Art Collective:**

Aims:

The Aims of Gorey Art Collective will be:

* To facilitate the encounter of artists living in the town of Gorey and its surroundings (local artists).
* To promote the exchange of ideas and collaboration of local artists.
* To run an inclusive art studio in Gorey.

Objectives:

To achieve its aims Gorey Art Collective will:

* Rent a shared studio space in Gorey
* Allow this studio space to be accessible to members at all times and to other interested parties at clearly defined times
* Establish a membership of the Gorey Art Collective
* Hold monthly meetings for all members
* Organise public talks and exhibitions in the studio space

Ethos:

The ideas underpinning the activities of Gorey Art Collective are:

* *Equality* of all artists in their humanity and need for self-expression.

Gorey Art Collective will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age.

It aims to be enabling for all participants.

* *Brotherliness* in material needs. Gorey Art Collective is not aimed at making any profit. Every member contributes time and skill according to their ability. Gorey Art Collective invites membership by interested parties, who offer financial and mentoring support for the few that can use the studio at a time.
* *Freedom* of expression of convictions and ideas. Respect for personal choices of expression.

1. **Membership**

Membership is open to anyone who:

* Is over 18 years of age
* Lives in Gorey or its surroundings
* Pays the minimum annual membership fee.
* Supports the Aims, Objectives and Ethos of Gorey Art Collective

Membership will begin as soon as the membership form and first annual payment has been received.

The annual membership fee is agreed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and is payable by all.

Some members will be studio members and use the shared studio space.

They will pay a separate weekly studio fee, which is also agreed at the AGM.

A list of all members will be kept by the membership secretary.

Ceasing to be a member:

Members may resign anytime in writing to the secretary.

Any member who has not paid their membership fee for one year will be contacted by the committee, who will then decide whether that member is deemed to have resigned.

Any break of the Code of Conduct or behaviour that stands in opposition to the aims and ethos of Gorey Art Collective may lead to a member being asked to resign from their membership, if an apology is not given and the behaviour is repeated.

The individual shall have the right to be heard by the committee, accompanied by a support person, before a final decision is made.

1. **Equal opportunities**

See Ethos of Gorey Art Collective, point Equality.

Gorey Art Collective is fully committing to the HSE’s policy for Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons.

The Safeguarding officer of Gorey Art Collective is Elke Williams (Phone:085 8186426).

1. **Officers and Committee**

The business of the group will be carried out by a committee elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The committee will consist of five members and will be composed of 3 officers and 2 committee members. Up to 2 additional members may be co-opted onto the committee at the discretion of the committee and for particular purposes such as for example fundraising and PR.

Officers are elected at the AGM for one year only and may be re-elected for a maximum of 3 years.

Ideally at every AGM one of the officers should resign, so that continuity of the group is given by retaining two of the previous officers.

The officer’s roles are as follows:

* Chair, who shall chair both general and committee meetings.
* Secretary, who shall be responsible for the taking of minutes and the distribution of all papers. The secretary will also keep the membership list.
* Treasure, who shall be responsible for maintaining accounts and preparing an Annual financial report for the AGM.

In the event of a member standing down during the year a replacement officer will be elected by the next General Meeting of members.

Any committee member not attending a meeting without an apology for three months will be contacted by the committee and asked if they wish to resign.

The committee meeting will be open to all members of the Gorey Art Collective, who may wish to speak but may not vote in situations where a vote is required.

1. **Meetings**
   1. Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held within 15 months of the previous AGM.

All members will be notified in writing at least 3 weeks before the date of the meeting, giving the venue, date and time.

Members with a disability may bring a representative to these meetings to support them in their understanding and in making their opinion heard. This representative may not join the meeting without the person they are supporting present.

Nominations for the committee may be made to the Secretary before the meeting, or at the meeting.

The quorum for the AGM will be 10% of the membership or 8 members, whichever is the greater number.

At the AGM:

* The committee will present a report of the work of the Gorey Art Collective over the year.
* The committee will present the accounts of the Gorey Art Collective of the previous year.
* The officers of the committee for the next year will be elected.
* Any proposals given to the secretary at least 7 days in advance of the meeting will be discussed.
  1. Special General Meetings

The Secretary will call a Special General Meeting at the request of the majority of the committee or at least 6 other members giving a written request to the secretary and stating the reason for their request.

The meeting will take place within 21 days of the request.

All members will be given two weeks’ notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda and notice may be by telephone, e-mail or post.

Members with a disability may bring a representative to these meetings to support them in their understanding and in making their opinion heard. This representative may not join the meeting without the person they are supporting present.

The quorum for the Special General Meeting will be 10% of the membership or 8 members, whichever is the greater number.

* 1. General Meetings

General meetings are open to all members and will be held at least every 3 months or more often if necessary.

All members will be given two weeks’ notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda and notice may be by telephone, e-mail or post.

Members with a disability may bring a representative to these meetings to support them in their understanding and in making their opinion heard. This representative may not join the meeting without the person they are supporting present.

The quorum for the Special General Meeting will be 10% of the membership or 5 members, whichever is the greater number.

* 1. Committee Meetings

Committee meetings may be called by the Chair or Secretary.

Committee members must receive notice of meetings at least 7 days before the meeting.

Members with a disability may bring a representative to these meetings to support them in their understanding and in making their opinion heard. This representative may not join the meeting without the person they are supporting present.

The quorum for the Committee Meeting is 3 Committee members.

1. **Rules of Procedure for meetings**

All the questions that arise at a meeting will be discussed openly and the meeting will seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to.

If a consensus cannot be reached a vote will be taken and a decision will be made by a simple majority of members present. If the number of votes cast on each side is equal, the chair of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.

1. **Finances:**

An account will be maintained on behalf of Gorey Art Collective at a bank agreed by the committee.

Three cheque signatories will be nominated by the Committee (one to be the treasurer). The signatories must not be related or members of the same household.

All payments will be signed by two of the signatories.

* For cheque payments, the signatories will sign the cheque.
* For other payments (such as BACS payments, cash withdrawals, debit card or cash payments), a requisition note will be signed by two signatories, and held by the treasurer.

Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by the treasurer and a financial statement given at each meeting.

All money raised by or on behalf of Gorey Art Collective is only to be used to further the aims of Gorey Art Collective as specified in item 2 of this constitution.

1. **Amendments to the Constitution**

Changes to the constitution require an AGM or a Special General Meeting.

Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given to the Secretary in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of the meeting.

All changes to the constitution are aimed to be made in consensus by all members present.

Should this not be possible they will require a two third majority of all members present and entitled to vote.

1. **Dissolution:**

If a meeting by simple majority, decides that it is necessary to close down the Gorey Art Collective, it may call a Special General Meeting to do so. The sole business of this meeting will be to dissolve Gorey Art Collective. If it is agreed to dissolve the group, all remaining money and other assets, once outstanding debts have been paid, will be donated to a local charitable organisation. The organisation will be agreed at the meeting which agrees to the dissolution.

This constitution was agreed at the Inaugural General Meeting of Gorey Art Collective on:

Date:……………………………………

Name and position in Gorey Art Collective:………………………………………………….

Signed:…………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Name and position in Gorey Art Collective:………………………………………………….

Signed:…………………………………………………………………………………………………………