

**GCC**

**Impact Report 2025**

**Creating an Environmentally  
Responsible Art World**

## Leading Climate Action in the Visual Arts

Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC) is dedicated to reducing the visual arts sector's environmental impact and driving systemic change. Our mission is to cut the sector's CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by at least 50% by 2030 and to promote near-zero waste practices.

Through knowledge sharing, community building, and advocacy, we empower arts organisations, artists and artworkers to embed environmental responsibility into their operations.

As a charity and membership organisation, our long-term vision is an environmentally responsible art world that leads by example. By supporting collaboration and innovation, we aim to create a sustainable cultural sector that champions climate action and inspires broader systemic change.



Left to right in image  
Lula Rappoport, Community Coordinator  
Nicola Ferrão, Operations Manager  
Heath Lowndes, Director & Co-Founder  
Aoife Fannin, Project Manager

# A Message from the Director

## Heath Lowndes

This past year has been one of the most demanding and consequential in GCC's five-year history. Marking our anniversary invited both reflection and recommitment, and the past twelve months have demonstrated what a focused, collaborative and determined cultural community can achieve. We set out to take stock of our progress, sharpen our strategy and deepen our impact. I am proud to say that, together, we did all three.

Our 2025 Stocktake Report provided the clearest picture yet of the sector's trajectory, revealing both measurable progress and the stubborn challenges that remain. It showed that when ambition is matched by practical guidance, shared standards and accountability, structural change becomes possible. This year we saw GCC's membership continue to grow significantly with more organisations than ever embedding environmental responsibility into core planning, investing in energy efficiency, and adopting low impact shipping and production practices.

We also delivered London's first *Art + Climate Week* and convened local and international leaders at MoMA in New York for *Climate Conversations* in collaboration with Teiger Foundation and Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, signalling the growing recognition that culture has an essential role to play in shaping a resilient, low-impact future.

There have been challenges too. The pace of change is still uneven, and many organisations face financial pressures that make long-term planning difficult and present very real income issues for us as a charity predominantly dependent on voluntary donations from the sector we serve. The global political landscape remains volatile and despite progress, emissions from travel, production and energy continue to outstrip what science tells us is safe. Yet these challenges have only strengthened our conviction that GCC's work must be both practical and imaginative, balancing clear standards with the narrative leadership our sector is uniquely positioned to offer.

As we look towards 2026, our focus is on consolidation and acceleration. We will continue to support members to meet our collective targets and build capacity for deeper systems change across supply chains, finance, and institutional governance. We will continue developing the tools, research and partnerships that remove barriers to action, while amplifying the stories of those leading the way. Above all, we will keep working to ensure that climate responsibility is understood not as an optional "add-on" but as a condition for cultural relevance and integrity in the decade ahead.

Five years in, GCC's mission truly feels more urgent than ever. The progress we have made has only been possible because of the generosity, creativity and resolve of our members, partners and supporters. I would like to say a personal thank you to our funders, members, contributors and collaborators for your ongoing support, commitment and for the work you do every day. We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

# 2025 in Numbers

## Impact at a Glance

500+

Members Joined the  
Coalition (Total: 2,100)

3k+

Instagram Audience  
Growth (Total: 15k)

1,012

Active Carbon  
Calculator reports

90+

Organisations Carbon  
Calculator trained

980

Annual Event Attendees

40

Pieces of Press  
Coverage



# Climate Conversations: Art Institutions & Resilience

Thursday 29 May 2025  
The Museum of Modern Art, NYC

Organized in partnership with Helen Frankenthaler Foundation  
Gallery Climate Coalition & Teiger Foundation



*Climate Conversations: Art Institutions & Resilience at MoMA,  
New York City, May 29, 2025. Photography by Jenna Bascom.*

# Membership Overview

## A Growing Global Community

2,100  
members  
worldwide

From 65+  
countries

Shown on the map  
to the right

Including 1000+ organisations  
representing a global network  
of 25,000+ professionals.



Membership  
breakdown  
by category

24% Non-profits, Institutions & Museums

23% Individual Artworkers

22% Artists and Studios

18% Galleries

13% Art-Sector Businesses

Crucially, membership is free and open to all arts organisations, industry professionals and artists willing to commit to supporting GCC’s mission and vision and take urgent action to reduce their impacts.

The Active Membership initiative honours members who demonstrably meet best practice standards.



## Membership and Community

### Driving Our Growth and Impact

Despite some retreat from global climate targets and ambition, for the second year in a row GCC welcomed 500 new members. This consistent organic growth of GCC membership demonstrates the appetite for climate action in the arts remains steadfast.

Over the past year, overall membership grew by 31%, with the most significant increase coming from the United States, which saw a 70% rise in members. The fastest-growing member type was individual members, who increased by 46% during the same period.

In 2025, we awarded 'Active Member' status for the third year to members implementing best practices in line with GCC guidance, with numbers remaining consistent with the previous year. Active Membership continues to be a cornerstone of GCC's offering and a widely celebrated moment in the yearly calendar.

*Art for a Climate Changed World* at Mimosa House, London, 15 November 2025.  
Photography by JH Visuals.







*Climate Conversations: Art Institutions & Resilience, MoMA, New York City, May 29, 2025. Photography by Jenna Bascom.*



## 2025 Achievements and Activities

# Climate Conversations: Art Institutions & Resilience

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*Climate Conversations: Art Institutions & Resilience at MoMA, New York City, May 29, 2025. Photography by Jenna Bascom.*

Hosted by the Museum of Modern Art and co-organised with and supported by Teiger Foundation and the Helen Frankenthaler Foundation, GCC was proud to bring together more than 150 representatives from across New York's visual art ecosystem for a significant sector event focused on solutions-driven exchange.

The convening served as both a moment of collective reflection and a catalyst for action. Participants shared strategies for embedding sustainability across governance, operations, programming, and community engagement. Discussions highlighted the growing recognition that climate responsibility has become integral to institutional resilience and the sector's long-term existence. Speakers emphasised honesty about challenges, enabling a culture of collective problem-solving rather than isolated action.

In a year marked by escalating climate pressures, *Climate Conversations* offered clarity, momentum, and a renewed sense of collective responsibility, laying groundwork for sustained, coordinated climate leadership across the visual arts. You can learn more about the programme, [here](#).

**// True climate leadership  
requires transformation,  
not just optimisation.**

*Glen Lowry, Former Director, The Museum of Modern Art*



## 2025 Achievements and Activities

### Gathering of GCC Supporters and High-Level Advocates

Generously hosted by GCC Co-Founder and Trustee Kate MacGarry, this intimate lunch brought together long-standing supporters and high-level advocates to welcome Frances Morris as the new Chair of GCC's Board of Trustees. The gathering provided an opportunity for peers to reflect on the coalition's achievements, exchange insights, and strengthen networks amidst a challenging political, economic and environmental context.

Attendees, including GCC trustees, artists, gallery owners, and advocates, deepened connections, creating a foundation for ongoing collaboration and coordinated climate action. The gathering offered a moment of reflection and celebration, reinforcing a sense of shared purpose and confidence in GCC's capacity to drive sector-wide sustainability initiatives despite external challenges.

*Gathering of GCC Supporters and High-Level Advocates at Kate MacGarry, London, 1 May 2025.*





# 2025 Achievements and Activities

## Collectors Breakfast

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As part of its spring NYC programme, GCC convened Cecily Brown and Frances Morris in conversation to spotlight the critical role collectors can play in shaping a more environmentally responsible art world. Generously hosted at Paula Cooper Gallery, the conversation brought together collectors to explore their roles, influence, responsibility, and leadership within the art market.

By centring collectors within the climate conversation, the event highlighted their unique and vital capacity to influence production practices, institutional norms, and market demand, reframing collecting as an active lever for environmental responsibility. The conversation encouraged openness and critical reflection, reinforcing the idea that climate leadership must extend beyond artists and institutions to include those who shape value and demand. The event fostered a more holistic view of the changes needed to align the art world with climate goals.

*GCC Collectors Breakfast* at Paula Cooper Gallery, New York City, May 30, 2025.



# 2025 Achievements and Activities

## Artists for Climate Action

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During NYC Climate Week, GCC and ClientEarth joined forces to launch Artists for Climate Action, an initiative harnessing the influence of leading artists to drive climate action. Donated artworks supported the visual arts sector's transition to more sustainable operations through GCC, while also funding ClientEarth's high-impact legal action to protect ecosystems, communities and the global climate. The partnership sought to strengthen connections between the art world and climate action initiatives.

The initiative was inaugurated with the donation of a work by artist Suzanne Jackson (via Ortuzar) at a special event at The Hotel Chelsea, hosted by a committee of artists and cultural figures including Cecily Brown, Frances Morris, Josh Kline, Legacy Russell, Lydia Yee, Mika Rottenberg, Jenny Holzer and Beatriz Milhazes.

*Artists for Climate Action* operates as a philanthropy platform enabling artists and galleries to raise funds to address the climate emergency through the donation of original works and editions.

**// Art changes minds. Law changes outcomes. Artists for Climate Action brings these forces together at a critical moment for our planet.**

*Laura Clarke, CEO, ClientEarth*



Suzanne Jackson Baby Kiss, 1984, Acrylic wash on gessoed canvas. Courtesy of the artist and Ortuzar, New York. Photo: Steven Probert. © Suzanne Jackson

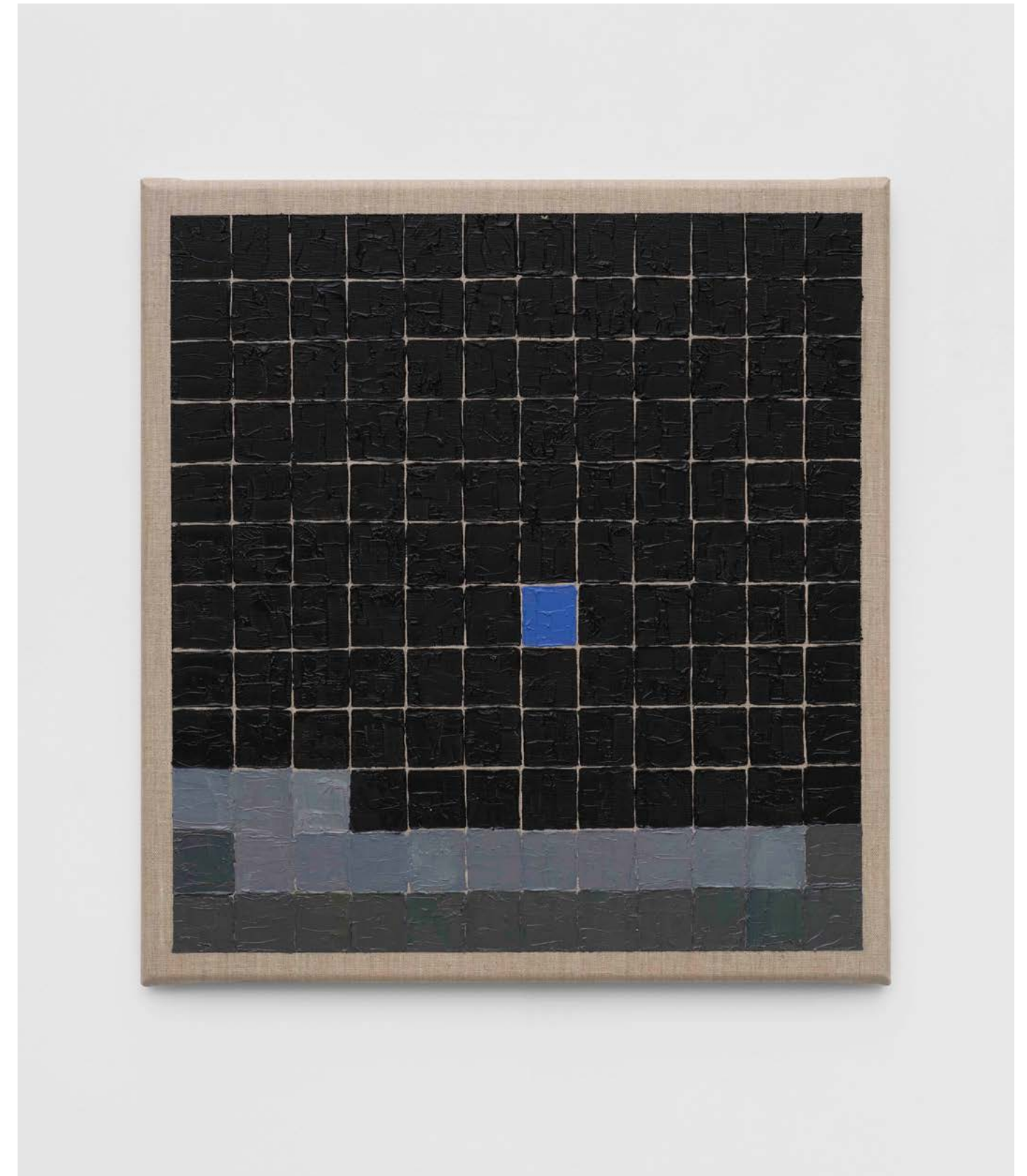


Supported by Active Members, Frieze, GCC marked its fifth anniversary with the launch of '10% Of'. Participating galleries pledged 10% of selected artwork sales to support climate action in the visual arts, turning routine commercial gestures into a sense of shared responsibility. The initiative provided a simple, actionable and replicable pathway for galleries to contribute to sector-wide change.

We would like to extend our gratitude to those who took part: Axel Vervoordt, BASTIAN, Berry Campbell, D'LAN CONTEMPORARY, David Zwirner, Edel Assanti, Frith Street Gallery, Gagosian, Hauser & Wirth, Hollybush Gardens, Kate MacGarry, Lisson Gallery, Maisterravalbuena, Michael Werner Gallery, October Gallery, Pedro Cera, Peter Blum Gallery, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, Sadie Coles HQ, Seventeen Gallery, Soft Opening, Sprüth Magers, Thaddaeus Ropac, Thomas Dane Gallery, Tiwani Contemporary, Union Pacific, Victoria Miro, Waddington Custot, White Cube.

**// By reframing a standard art market gesture, this initiative shows how the sector can work together to drive systemic change – an impact greater than the sum of its parts.**

*Frances Morris, Chair of GCC*



Cornelia Parker, EARTHRISE 1969, 2025. Oil painting on canvas.  
Courtesy of the artist and Frith Street. © Cornelia Parker

# 2025 Achievements and Activities

## London Art + Climate Week

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*Emerging in times of Crisis* at South London Gallery.  
12 November 2025. Photography by JH Visuals.

In November 2025, GCC convened London's leading institutions and contemporary art galleries to launch London Art + Climate Week, a new five-day public programme aligning the visual arts sector with global climate action. More than 25 organisations participated, presenting over 30 free exhibitions and events, marking the first coordinated, sector-wide art and climate initiative of its kind in the UK capital.

Taking place alongside COP30, London Art + Climate Week signalled a shared responsibility within the sector to engage the public on the climate crisis at a moment of waning global attention. By bringing together existing activity under a single umbrella, the initiative amplified the visibility of work already happening at the intersection of art and climate, presenting it as a collective movement rather than isolated efforts.

The programme generated 29 pieces of press coverage with an estimated reach of 1.4 million views. All 11 ticketed events sold out, with more than 600 people attending over the five days. In a post-programme survey, 100% of participating organisations reported connecting with new audiences online or in person, and all stated that their involvement increased their motivation to deliver further climate-focused exhibitions or events.

Feedback from participants highlighted the value of the shared platform, with all surveyed organisations expressing interest in taking part in future editions and supporting the development of London Art+Climate Week as an annual event.



# 2025 Achievements and Activities

## Stocktake Report

To coincide with COP30, GCC published the Stocktake Report, providing the first evidence-based assessment of the visual arts sector's progress toward halving emissions by 2030. Drawing on five years of Carbon Calculator data and supported by Hauser & Wirth and Christie's, the report demonstrated that collective action in the sector is delivering measurable results.

The report found that 79% of members who began tracking emissions in 2019 had already reduced them by more than 25%, placing early adopters on a credible pathway toward the 50% reduction target. It also showed that if these approaches were scaled across the global art world, emissions could be reduced by over 5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually.

The Stocktake Report marked the first time the visual arts sector demonstrated measurable, sector-wide emissions reductions. While progress remains uneven, the findings provided a clear foundation for the next phase of collective action, informing ambition and priorities for the years leading up to 2030.

**// The Stocktake Report shows that halving the sector's emissions by 2030 is technically possible – but only if we rapidly scale what the pioneers are already doing.**

*Heath Lowndes, Director GCC*



*GCC Stocktake Report Preview at Christie's, London. 14 November 2025. Photography by Guy Bell.*





*Singing to the Nanomeadow Workshop, at IONE & MANN,  
London. 15 November 2025. Photography by JH Visuals.*



# Finance and Operations

## Powering our Mission

### Welcomed new trustees

In 2025, we were thrilled to welcome three new trustees to the GCC board: Frances Morris, Clodhna Murphy, and Michel Driessen.

Each brings vital expertise at a pivotal moment for GCC. Their combined vision and experience will guide GCC as we accelerate our mission to decarbonise the visual arts sector, strengthen our operations, and drive meaningful, measurable change across the industry.

### Strategic review

Reaching the halfway point of GCC’s ten-year strategy provided a moment to reflect and prepare for the next phase. In late 2025, we carried out an internal strategic review to assess progress, explore emerging challenges, and identify focus areas for our 2030 ambitions.

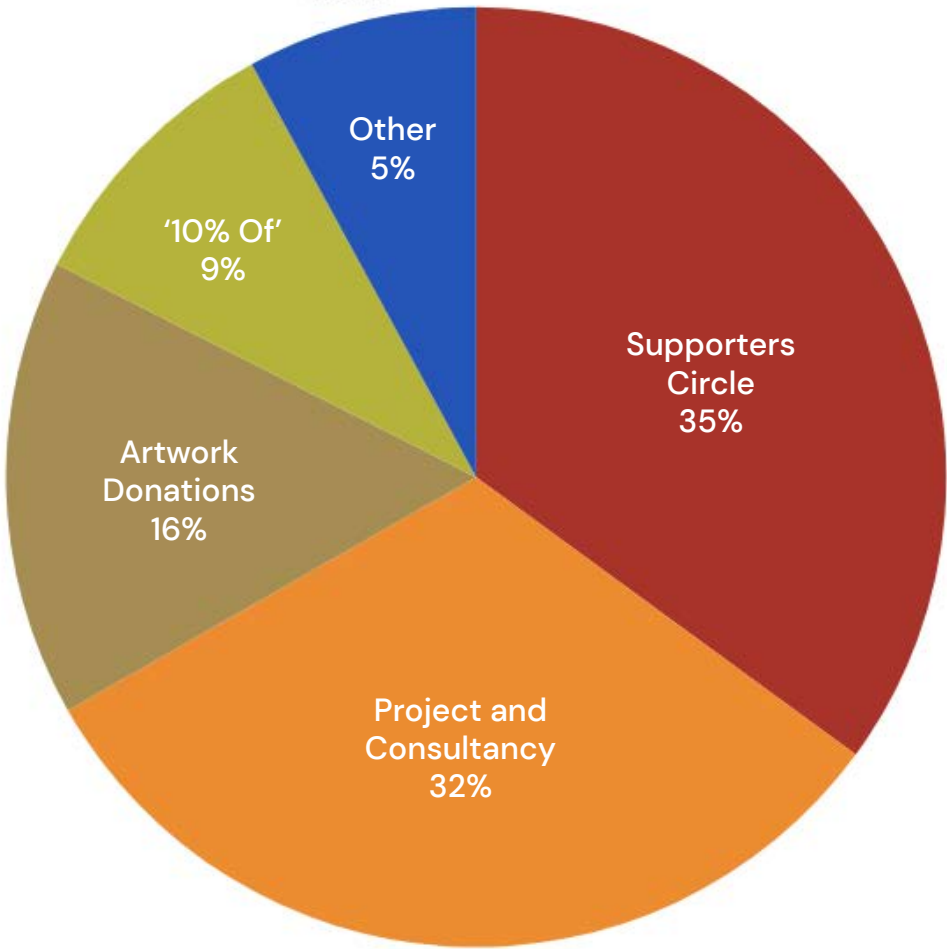
Key outcomes included laying the groundwork for a full strategy refresh, embracing a systems thinking approach

to influence the wider sector, and strengthening internal alignment to drive coordinated action.

This review sets the stage for 2026, when we will integrate insights from the Stocktake Report to ensure GCC continues to lead ambitious, sector-wide climate action in the visual arts.

### Funding sources

All of the support that we receive – whether in financial donations, or contributions of insight, expertise, time and shared resources – helps make a difference as we continue to drive meaningful change, bringing the visual arts community closer to a sustainable future. To do this work requires funds, and as a charity that receives no government or central funding, this must all be self-generated. In 2025 GCCs total income was £250,354.23, with funds generously donated by a combination of individuals, galleries, organisations and institutions.



**GCC Supporters Circle**  
**Industry Leaders Supporting Climate Action**

**Platinum**

**Transforming  
the Sector**

£10k / €12k / \$12.5k+

Art Basel, Christie’s, Gagosian, Hauser & Wirth, Lisson Gallery,  
PACE, White Cube

**Gold**

**Growing Our  
Efforts**

£5k / €6 / \$6.5k

Frederick Mulder Foundation, Frieze, Thomas Dane Gallery,  
Sadie Coles HQ

**Silver**

**Contributing  
to Change**

£2.5k / €3k / \$3.5k

Cadogan Tate, Galleria Continua, Galerie Max Hetzler, Ivor Braka  
Kate MacGarry, Massimo De Carlo, Michael Werner Gallery,  
Modern Art, The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), Sprüth  
Magers, Sutton, Victoria Miro



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*Climate Conversations: Art Institutions & Resilience* at MoMA,  
New York City, May 29, 2025. Photography by Jenna Bascom.



Alongside GCC's core programme 2025 marked a strategic milestone with the development of CASI (Climate Action Services International), a new consultancy designed to support the visual art sector with hands-on sustainability support. Born from the same mission and evidence base as GCC, CASI was created to expand the sector's knowledge and practical capacity for climate action. It addresses a critical hurdle – while many visual arts organisations are committed to ambitious environmental goals, they often lack the technical expertise, internal resources, or strategic confidence to operationalise them. CASI exists to bridge this gap.

Throughout 2025, supported by funding from Murmur, CASI underwent a significant period of development. This phase focused on piloting essential services, including carbon auditing, energy transition planning, and bespoke staff training. While GCC continues to drive sector-wide standards and collective momentum, CASI provides the hands-on delivery required at the organisational level. Together, they form a

connected ecosystem of climate action: GCC creates the conditions for systemic change, while CASI enables that progress to be embedded within real-world structures, budgets, and daily decision-making.

Operating as a social enterprise, CASI is built on a model of circular support, reinvesting 51% of its profits back into GCC to fund further advocacy and public-good work. This evolution represents a vital shift from awareness to implementation, strengthening the sector's ability to deliver measurable, lasting environmental impact.

We are really excited to share the results of this foundational year as we prepare for a full operational launch in Spring 2026. This is the next chapter in our collective journey toward a sustainable art world – watch this space. You can learn more about CASI, [here](#).





### Re-strategisation Process

In 2026, GCC will seek support to undertake a renewed organisational re-strategisation process, including the development of an updated Theory of Change. This will allow us to reflect on learning to date, respond to a rapidly evolving climate context, and sharpen our focus on the actions and partnerships needed to accelerate sector-wide change.

### Active Membership Awards

This initiative will celebrate leadership and best practice across the GCC membership, recognising organisations that are translating climate commitments into meaningful action. These awards play an important role in visibility, motivation, and peer-to-peer learning across the sector.

### Future Visions

Future Visions is an ambitious initiative exploring what an environmentally responsible future for the visual arts could look like by 2035. Through collective envisioning, workshops, and shared dialogue, the project aims to inspire bold

ideas, deepen understanding of climate targets, and build momentum for long-term, collaborative action across the sector.

### Active Membership

Active Membership remains a cornerstone of GCC's work, embedding accountability and action within our coalition commitments. In 2026, we will continue awarding Active Member status – now in its fourth year – to members who demonstrate the implementation of best practice in line with GCC guidance.

### 10% Of Initiative

In 2026, we will explore further opportunities to expand and develop the 10% Of initiative, strengthening its reach and impact. This includes identifying new partners, formats, and contexts in which the initiative can support tangible climate action and investment.

### Art + Climate Week

We will seek sponsorship to expand Art + Climate Week, including a second London activation and the development of

international collaborations. This growth aims to amplify global exchange, visibility, and collective action at the intersection of art and climate.

### Artist Talk Series

We are seeking support to launch a new artist-led talk series exploring the role of artistic practice in responding to the climate crisis. Bringing together artists, curators, and cultural workers, the series will create space for critical reflection and shared learning, while amplifying underrepresented voices in climate discourse.

### Carbon Calculator Updates

The GCC Carbon Calculator is a core piece of sector infrastructure, enabling organisations to measure and reduce their environmental impact. We will seek support to maintain and update the tool, ensuring it remains robust, user-friendly, and aligned with evolving standards and sector needs, while continuing to underpin data-driven climate action across the visual arts.





*Emerging in times of Crisis* at South London Gallery.  
12 November 2025. Photography by JH Visuals.



# Thank You

## Join Us in Leading the Change

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This work would not be possible without the commitment, generosity and leadership of our members, team and advisors, whose dedication underpins everything we do.

We'd also like to thank the board of trustees: **Isla Angus; Thomas Dane; Michel Driesen; Greg Hilty; Lucia Pietroiusti; Frances Morris; Kate MacGarry; and Clodhna Murphy** for their continued stewardship and insight.

We are deeply grateful to our **Supporters Circle**, whose support has enabled meaningful progress across the sector: **Art Basel; Christie's; Frieze; Gagosian; Hauser & Wirth; Lisson Gallery; Thomas Dane Gallery; White Cube; Frederick Mulder Foundation; Sadie Coles HQ; Sprüth Magers; Cadogan Tate; Galleria Continua; Galerie Max Hetzler; Ivor Braka; Kate MacGarry; Massimo De Carlo; Michael Werner Gallery; Modern Art; Momart; The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA); Sutton; Victoria Miro.**

We are also incredibly thankful for the support of our many friends and collaborators over the past year: **Ales Ortuzar; Cecily Brown; ClientEarth; Getty Foundation; GoWithYamo; The Helen Frankenthaler Foundation; Louisa Buck; Murmur; The Museum of Modern Art; PACT; Paula Cooper Gallery; Suzanne Jackson; Teiger Foundation.**

Our sincere thanks also to all **participants in the 10% Of initiative at Frieze London and Masters 2025.**

Finally, we thank our **PR team – Sam Talbot, Isabel Davies and Gwyneth Tambe-Green** – for their invaluable support in amplifying this work.

GCC is a UK-registered charity and through our Friends Fund at CAF America can solicit tax-deductible donations of any size from U.S. donors.

Registered Charity Number: 1193687

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