

Dear Artist,

I hope this finds you well in these uncertain times.

I have recently become the Chair of RISE, the Brighton & Hove domestic abuse charity and I am writing to you in that capacity. ***I am hoping you would like to be involved in an art sale to benefit RISE also to promote the talented artists that Brighton and the festival is famous for.***

As I'm sure you will have seen in the media, around the world incidents of domestic abuse are increasing. We know that in the UK, 14 women and two children were tragically killed in the first three weeks of lockdown.

As you can imagine RISE has been severely stretched and is currently receiving between two and three times the amount of calls to its helpline than before lockdown. As well as needing increased staffing to meet this demand, we are also being hit with additional IT costs to adapt to working remotely. This is at a time when our key fundraising events, such as the Heroes Run, are being postponed or cancelled due to the pandemic, cutting our fundraising ability in a time when we need money the most.

This means that the Fundraising Team and the Trustees are working together to explore some new and different fundraising ideas.

A local artist and friend of RISE approached me and offered a piece of her work to sell to raise money for RISE. This initial offer planted a seed which has now grown into a full-blown fundraising event! All it took was a generous gift, a few chats and a Zoom meeting and we are now a team of five, all working on the **Artist RISE Up for RISE Art Sale!**

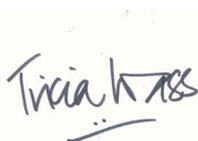
We are contacting you to invite you to join us by donating a piece of work for the sale. We know that many of you will have prepared work for the May festival and the summer and we'd really appreciate your support in this. The Art Sale will be hosted on the RISE website and promoted locally in the news and social media. **We plan to showcase both the work and the artist.**

We are reaching out to as many local creators as possible and would appreciate it if you could forward this to any artists in your network you think might like to take part too. Everyone is welcome! I know I'm not alone in having missed the Festival buzz of May and we aim to recreate just a little of that community atmosphere, albeit online. We also hope that by getting involved and sharing the event with your networks will give you the opportunity to promote and sell your work to new audiences.

So what next? To take part just send an email to emma.knox@riseuk.org.uk with 'I'm In!' or another such joyful phrase in the subject header and we will send you full details. If this isn't for you at this time, we'd be grateful if you'd forward this request to your art network.

I really look forward to hearing from you. RISE is determined to keep operating to make sure that everyone has somewhere to turn if they are experiencing abuse. Our vision is freedom from domestic abuse.

Working together I know we can make strides towards that vision.



Tricia Knox