



Last But Not Least

Round 5 is the final grant awards round for the Ulrike Michal Foundation for the Arts.

The foundation was established in late 2019 by three friends of Ulrike Michal, a Swiss vet who made her home in Cheshire and who in her free time pursued her love of art – at home, as a member of the Liver Sketching Club (the oldest artists’ club in Liverpool), and as part-time fine arts undergraduate at Bangor University in Gwynedd, north Wales.

The goal of the Ulrike Michal Foundation has been to *“promote, encourage and extend the love, appreciation, enjoyment, understanding and practice of fine, decorative and applied arts among people of all ages through experiences at museums, art galleries, historic properties and in the community at large, both as individuals and communally, as participants and spectators.”*

This goal has been achieved through making grants with funding from the estate of Ulrike Michal. The aim has been to use that money for the benefit of others in an area of life - fine art, drawing and painting - that meant so much to Ulrike, both when she was growing up in Basel, Switzerland, and in adult life when she made her home in Cheshire.

The Trustees were able to make nine awards at Round 4 and below can be found updates on just a few of the projects that were awarded grants earlier this year.

CG0038 Imprinted Place—Picturing Labour and Landscape in a Changing Environment

Imprinted Place is a project planned and delivery by Shropshire-based artist and print-maker, Molly Brown.

The project centres on creating art (large scale and small scale prints) inspired by farming (both in its traditional and modern practices) and the local environment through art residencies, engagement workshops and an exhibition.

So far Molly Brown has delivered or undertaken a drop-in printing workshop to coincide with the Shropshire Good Food Trail, a two-day relief printing workshop, and two week-long residencies, one based in a traditional orchard and the second during harvest time on a working farm.

The final exhibition is planned for March 2025 at the Qube Gallery in Oswestry in north-west Shropshire.



*Oats, original print
by Molly Brown,
2024*

CG0037 Caughley Response & Re-Imagining 18th Century Porcelain in the 21st Century

This is a collaborative project organized by Sarah Skelton of Shropshire Museums in partnership with ceramics artist, Paul Scott.

The project is inspired by the collection of ceramics in the museum collection made by the Caughley Porcelain factory in 18th century Shropshire.



Items from the Caughley Collection, courtesy of Shropshire Museum & Art Gallery

The project involves Paul Scott studying the collection in the museum's decorative art store and then developing works in response to and to complement the original Caughley wares. The historic porcelain and Paul Scott's new pieces will feature in a new exhibition in early 2026. The museum and artist will also work with the Young Collective, a local group of 18-24 year olds to develop events and activities inspired by the project.

Paul Scott's research started in July and it looks like the Caughley jugs, in their various sizes, most attracted his attention. In August, ceramicist Ed Bentley visited Shrewsbury to see the jugs.

Ed Bentley will make the jugs which Paul will then decorate. Their works will eventually join the Shropshire Museum collection to be kept and displayed alongside the original Caughley porcelain. The Young Collective are joining the project this autumn/winter.



CG0048 Restoring the Joseph Mayer Art Gallery



The Joseph Mayer Community Partnership applied to the Foundation for the funds to help them re-instate the Mayer Hall art gallery and thereby support local artists by providing a new venue for exhibitions on the Wirral.

Mayer Hall is one of a complex of cultural and educational buildings built by Joseph Mayer in the 1860s and 1870s, and gifted to the people of Bebington, the village next door to Port Sunlight.

The aim of the project was to use the funding from the Ulrike Michal Foundation to install an art rail display system that would allow the hall to more easily and sustainably host art exhibitions on a regular and repeated basis without damaging the building and the walls of the gallery.



The new system was installed over the summer and the first exhibition, delivered in collaboration with the Wirral Society of Artists, officially opened on September 20th 2024.

New display system in use.

**CG0050 Ein Portread Cynharaf (The Earliest Portrait), Oriel Môn
(March – September 2024)**

In 2019 an early 18th century portrait in a temporary frame, unsuitable for display, was donated to Oriel Môn, Anglesey's county museum and art gallery, based in Llangefni.

Painted in 1726, it is the oldest portrait painting in the museum collection. The grant application sought funds to appropriately frame and glaze the painting so that it could go on public display.

The subject of the painting is Ambrose Lewis, a local landowner, who is dressed in the suitably sombre clothing favoured in early 18th century Wales. The painting shows the coat of arms of



the sitter's ancestor, Hwfa ap Cynddelw, and these arms feature on the Anglesey county flag that was officially adopted in 2014.

The painting has been framed to museum conservation standards and in August it went on show in the museum's History Gallery. The painting also inspired an outreach children's activity at the annual Anglesey Show during the summer school holidays.

These four projects give an idea of the breadth of fine and decorative art activities the Foundation is keen to support.

The deadline for Round 5 grant application is December 20th 2024.