

Press release  
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Homeless given entire arts market – launch calendar on World Homeless Day

Spitalfields Arts Market will be run by Londoners affected by homelessness for seven days from next Monday.

The market will be filled with paintings and photographs from dozens of artists who are homeless or have recently been homeless. The project is run by homeless enterprise Café Art who will also be launching the 2018 MyLondon calendar in the market at lunchtime on Tuesday, World Homeless Day.

“We are trying to empower people who are in a tough situation – either sleeping rough, sofa surfing or recently rehoused,” says Paul Ryan from Café Art. “With the number of people who are homeless rising, we have seen positive changes in the individuals participating in the project. It helps them gain confidence and cope with their situations.”

The project, now in its fifth year, recently found out that plans to help homeless photographers learn more photography skills has been awarded a grant from Santander. Paul Ryan says: “The grant will let participants gain essential photography skills which will let them create more professional photographs, hopefully leading to employment in the field, or at least giving them confidence to apply for other work. One of the main issues people who are homeless have found is that they quickly lose confidence and this affects everything. By giving them these skills we can help them move on in their lives.”

The Café Art Market in Spitalfields runs from Monday 9 October to Sunday 15 October from 10am to 5pm daily. The 2018 MyLondon calendar will be launched at an Award Ceremony in the market at 1pm on Tuesday 10 October (World Homeless Day).

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