



ABLE

ART 2022

**JOINING
TOGETHER**



ABLE ART 2022



Lynette McKeown
CEO

It is an honour to introduce the 2022 Able Art Exhibition. Excitingly this year's collection is exhibited in-person in Melbourne for the first time in three years. Notably the theme for 2022 is 'Joining together'. It is wonderful after two years of lockdowns that we can come together and experience and enjoy the artistic contributions in person.

As you will see this year's collection is fun and expressive. There have been some collaborative pieces with the artists. For example the Team Able t-shirts which were worked on by clients from our Day programs in Melbourne in preparation for their Able Games event which was hosted in celebration of the Commonwealth games.

I would like to thank our Art Therapists, Helena Hatziathanassiou and Claire Fraser for supporting our clients through art therapy and for curating this year's collection. At Able we have a well-established Art Therapy program that fosters creativity to help clients improve their mental health in a safe and welcoming environment.

Finally, please join me in thanking the artists for their contributions. Art can be a very personal experience and I am grateful to the artists for sharing their pieces with the Able community and wider public.

I hope that you enjoy the Art as much as the artists did creating it.

A few words from our Art Therapists



**Helena
Hatziathanassiou**
Art Therapist

It has been a privilege to work alongside the artists in preparation for Able Art. Able Art has provided the opportunity for me as a new Art Therapist at Able Australia to connect and create with the clients at Able's Supported Homes and Day Services in Northcote.

Our clients have dived into their creativity and made various art pieces and been diverse of the art mediums.

Seeing the clients enthusiastically show the artwork they created during this time has been heartening. Creativity is such an integral part of self-expression, belonging and connection. I am looking forward to 2023 where we can continue to expand our creativity and learn from each other.



Claire Fraser
Art Therapist

It has been an exciting year working together with clients as they explore meaningful artmaking and engage and exploring a wide range of creative processes - including weaving, clay work, woodwork, drawing, painting and much more. It is always such a joy to support people to explore their creativity. Creative processes are such a powerful vehicle for choice, control, self-expression, understanding, play and reflection.

A highlight for me has been supporting people in discovering and exploring the pottery wheel and the "joys of making a mess" - water on feet, clay splashing

and flying off, and enjoying the soothing rhythm of the wheel as it spins.

Over the next year I will travel to the UK, Netherlands, Norway, America and Canada as part of the Churchill fellowship to explore creative arts processes for people born deafblind to improve wellbeing. I will gather this knowledge and learn the evidence of best practices in this area. I look forward to discovering methods used by others around the world and practising these methods with clients as part of next year's Able Art and further into the future.

Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge the support of our Art Therapist student placement Juliet Bennie. She was integral in encouraging and supporting the artists at our Able East Day Centre in Melbourne. Juliet provided an inclusive and joy-filled space to explore art.

Welcome to...

ABLE ART 2022

JOINING TOGETHER



This year's theme is **Joining Together**. After two years of lockdown, we can unite in person and celebrate the artworks of our clients. The collection of artworks is bold, expressive and exciting. Some clients have collaborated alongside support staff in Able Supported Homes and day programs to make artwork. Whilst other clients have created works by themselves. It is a joy to gather again and witness the creative efforts of our Able community.

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORTERS OF ABLE AUSTRALIA

This exhibition would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters.



HERBERT
SMITH
FREEHILLS

Herbert Smith Freehills continues to be a loyal community partner of Able Australia through much needed pro bono legal support, financial assistance and volunteer support on a number of key projects.

Since 2012, Herbert Smith Freehills has generously supported Able Australia's Able Art program, which assists people with a disability to express their emotions, explore their creativity and increase their self-esteem through visual art.

Thanks to their support, Able Australia provides all program participants with the opportunity to exhibit their artwork and share their creations with friends, family and the general public.



Bostik are also a great supporter of Able Australia. We thank them for their generous contribution of Blu Tack – widely used by clients who prefer tactical works of art and their ongoing support of our other programs.

SCULPTURE AND TACTILE: VICTORIA



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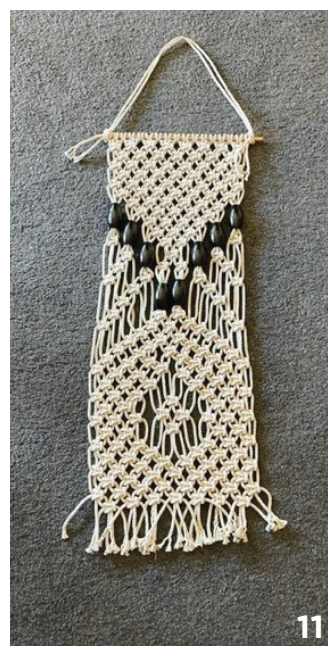
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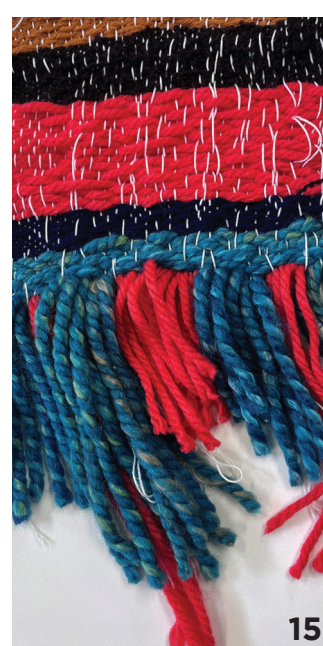
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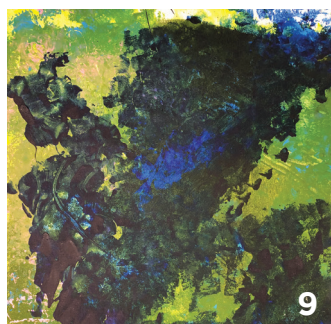
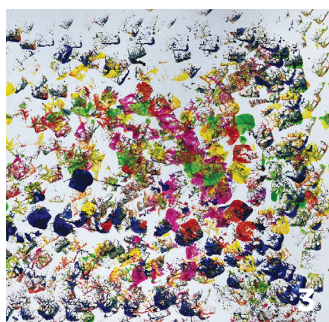
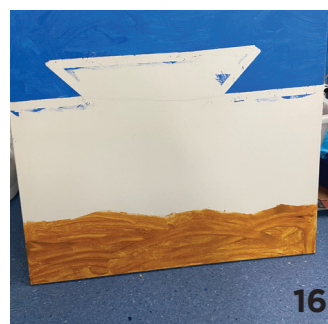
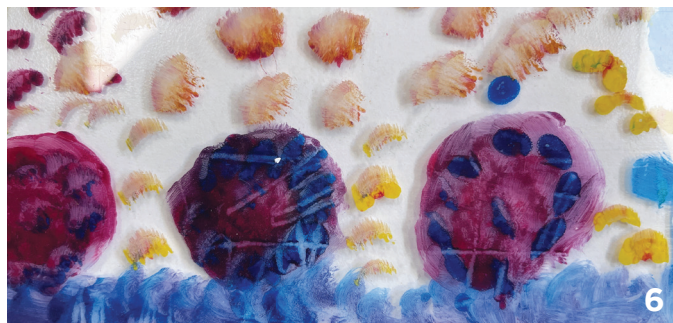
1. Ceramic - Joanne 2. Ceramic - Kay 3. Mixed Media - Phillip 4. Ceramic - Margaret 5. Ceramic - Kay 6. Ceramic - Margaret
7. Able Art Game T-shirt - Theo 8. Macrame - Gina 9. Ceramic - Margaret 10. Macramé - Gina 11. Macramé - Gina

SCULPTURE AND TACTILE: VICTORIA



12. Mixed Media - Gianni 13. Clay work - Sally Anne 14. Dog Park - Cathy 15. Macramé - Gina

PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS: VICTORIA



1. Painting - Brad 2. Painting - Nicole 3. Painting - Sandra 4. Painting - Sally Anne 5. My Family - Mark 6. Small Painting - Joanne
7. Drawing - Nicole 8. Drawing - Samuel 9. Painting - Sally Anne 10. Drawing - Saverio 11. Drawing - Kay 12. Tiger Forest - Nick
13. Drawing - Joanne 14. Painting - Wendy 15. Demons - Kathy 16. Painting - Loretta 17. Able Art Games T-shirt - Theo 18. Painting - Theo

PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS: VICTORIA



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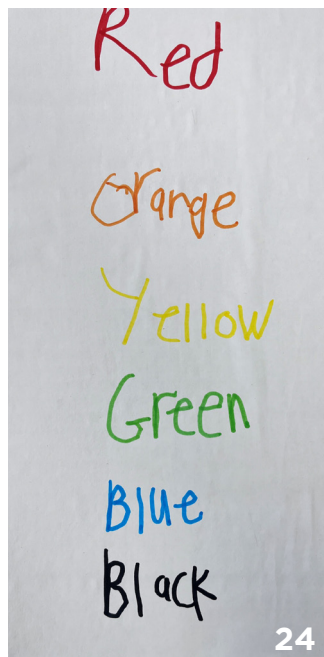
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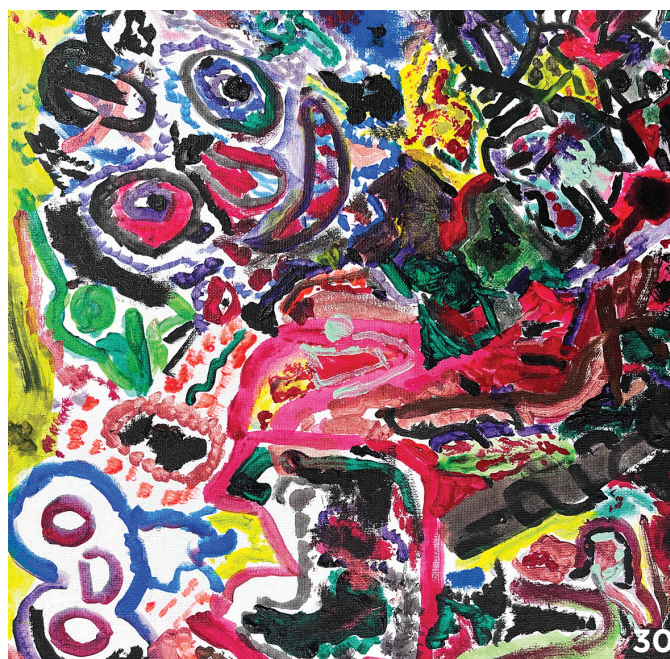
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19. Drawing - Wendy 20. Painting - Sandra 21. My Colourful Expression - John 22. Drawing - Joanne 23. Painting - Sally Anne
24. Rainbow - Baruch 25. Painting - Brad 26. Drawing - Joanne 27. Linocut - Joe 28. Painting - Jonothan 29. Linocut - Joe 30. Painting - Wayne

INSIDE THE ARTWORK



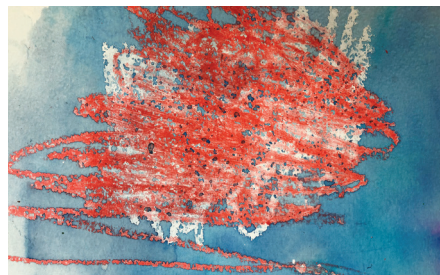
Butterfly by Deb

"This painting took me two months. Claire helped me. I'm really happy with it. I'm really proud and feel clever. My favourite part is the gold outline of the butterfly – it makes it look magic! When I was young, I remember doing painting and having so much fun, then I stopped. But in recent years I have started again, and I love it! I make lots of different types of art, paintings but also mosaic"



Pastels and Watercolours by Richard

Richard is an innovative and creative young man who has explored many mediums in the art room. Richard is deafblind and tactile experiences are central to the creative process for him. Richard formed his own unique process of selecting materials with different textures that he liked and cutting them up into different shapes. He then spent time thoughtfully arranging them together almost like puzzle pieces, or a paper collage and then tacked them down with thumb tacks. He enjoyed running his hands over the different textures of material and the feel of the thumb tacks.



INSIDE THE ARTWORK



Team Able T-shirts

This year we hosted the first Able Games at our Able East day service in Melbourne in July, to coincide with the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The event was the first collaboration with our Northcote Day Service since resuming supports post Covid-19.

In preparation for the event, clients designed their own team jerseys choosing colours and designs which represented the fun and togetherness of the event. The 'team jerseys' were worn during the opening ceremony where clients made their way with handcrafted torches to the main games area. Clients participated in a variety of individual and team games including soccer, totem tennis and bocci to name a few. We closed the games with a medal ceremony and well deserved BBQ.



Trash and Treasure by Alex

Trash & Treasure is a fully tactile art piece using fabric, glitter and different shells to deliver a hands-on art piece.

This piece encourages those looking at this piece to close their eyes and use the sense of touch, and a rough idea of how a Deafblind artist creates art using hands rather than a paintbrush like I have been using over the years.

Woodwork by Sean

Sean has a keen interest in manual trades: carpentry, woodworking, plumbing and electrical. He has CHARGE syndrome and is vision and hearing impaired. In 2019, he was able to explore learning woodwork at Vision Australia's Woodworking Program for vision impaired. He completed Levels 1, 2 and 3 in just 12 months, instead of the usual 18 months. In 2020, he completed a Certificate II in Furniture making at TAFE. Over the past two years, he has been improving his skills and learning about the furniture making trade from a furniture maker in the community. Sean's goal now is to pursue an apprenticeship in furniture making and seek employment in the industry.



Woodwork by Steven

Steven has recently recommenced attending the Men's Bizz at the Rocherlea Shed. Steven was supported to source a couple of basic wood projects that he was keen to make for himself and family. The instructions were provided to the shed who then supplied the timber which Steven paid for. The wood was then cut to size.

With the support and assistance of both Able support staff and also staff and volunteers from the shed Steven then began the process of putting together.



Octopus Garden by Birribi clients

Creating the Octopus Garden was an immersive experience as clients were supported to go to the beach and gather the coral, seaweed, rocks, and shells to form the Octopus Garden. Clients were encouraged and actively supported by hand over hand to paint the coral and seaweed. Clients used modelling clay to shape and make the sea creatures and finished off with more painting and decorating along with the rocks and shells.



DRAWINGS AND EXPERIMENTAL ART: BIRRIBI



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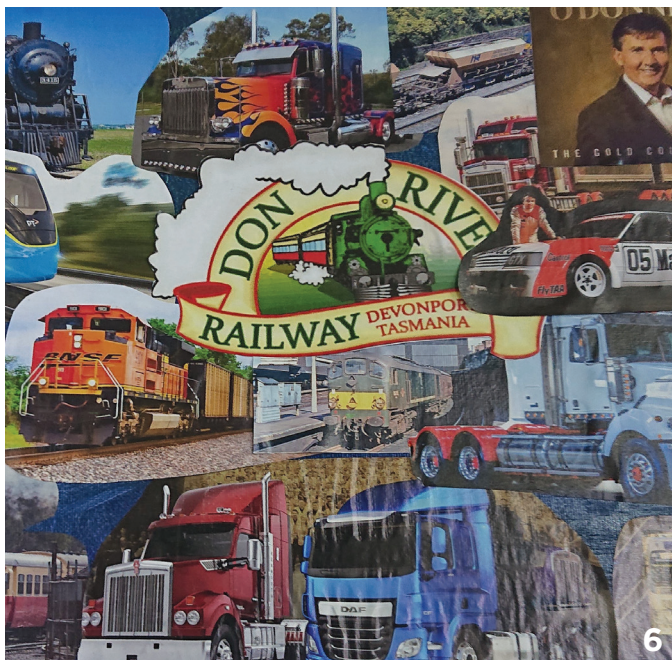
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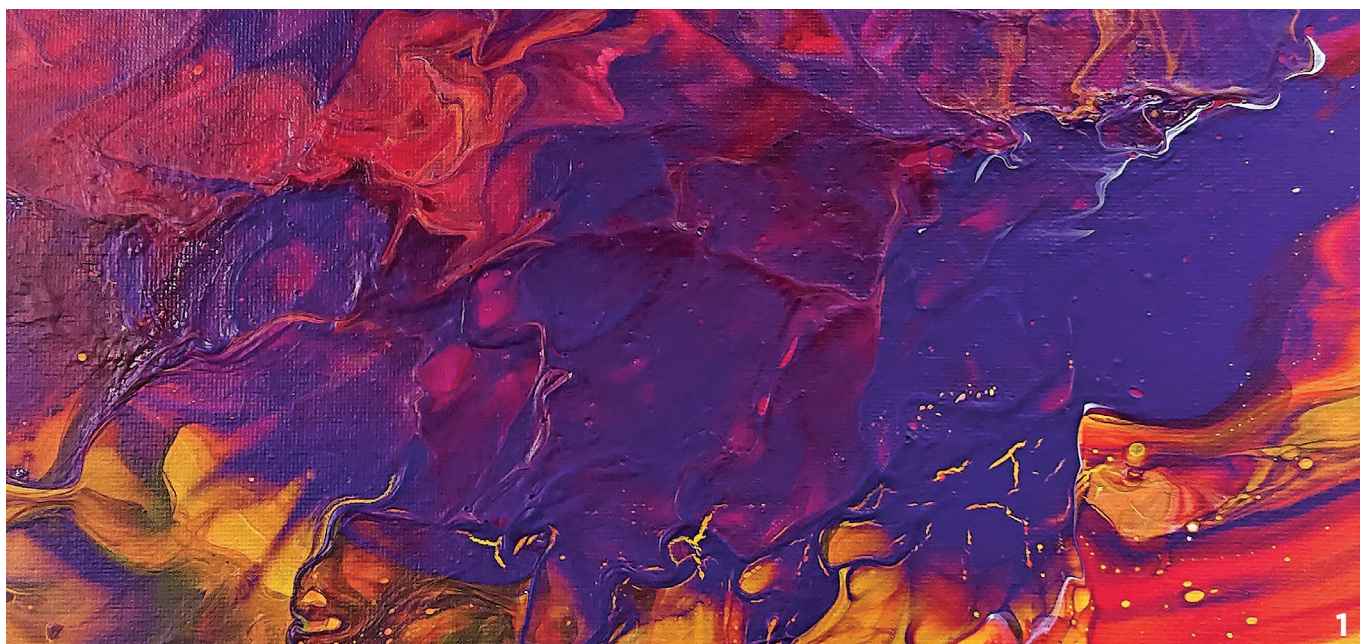
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Cloud installation by Josh

Making the clouds was a comprehensive process including purchasing tree lampshades from the local op shop and cable tying them together. Multi coloured stripes were added around the lampshades. Netting was added to keep everything around the lampshades in place. Adhesive spray was used to adhere the filler which is the white fluffy cloud like material to the lampshades. Rain drops which were purchased were added as well as handmade raindrops made from resin and attached to the cloud with fishing line. The finished art piece illuminates.

1. Paper Collage - Darren 2. Salt Dough Dream Catcher - Sharon 3. Blue Cloud - Josh 4. Green Cloud - Josh 5. Balloon Painting - Jimmy 6. Truck and Train Collage - Michael 7. Green Cloud Project- Josh 8. Pony Bead Suncatcher - Karen 9. Hand Print Oven Mit - Ronald

SCULPTURE AND TACTILE: BIRRIBI



1. Paint Pouring - Jillienne 2. Masking Tape Painted Coloured Art - Jillienne 3. Painted and Baked Bowl - Joanne 4. Painted Colour - Joanne
5. Bertie Beatie Show Bag - Joanne

SCULPTURE AND TACTILE: BIRRIBI



6. Paint Pouring -Tanya 7. Multi Media - Sancha 8.Circle Wood Project - Jimmy 9. Paper Lantern - Helen 10. Nature Picture - Sancha 11. Pony Bead Sun Catcher - Theresa

DAY SERVICE SOUTH



Soap by Birribi clients

Last year clients made baubles to give as a thank you to Able Australia donors. This year the team decided to make soaps to say thank you to some of Able Australia's donors. Each soap has an intricate design, and the scent is heavenly.





Candles by Birribi clients

A candle making machine was used to make the candles which was safe and easy for clients to use. Clients picked their design and added the mica colours. In the next step they turned the small valve on the machine which filled their glasses with their candle colours. Some moulds were used which replicated things like macarons and fruit. To make what looked like ice was unmelted wax chips with a drizzle of clear hot wax put over the candle to hold it together. Leftover scent from the soaps pictured has been used and the candles smell divine. Many clients found the candle making process quite simple, and the results - spectacular.

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