



Arts Project Australia STUDIO ANNEXE SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT LAUNCH

The Hon. Brian Howe, M.P. will launch the Arts Project Australia Studio Annexe Supported Employment Program on May 25th at Arts Project Australia. This program has provided six very talented individuals with greater opportunities to further develop artistic skills, supported their involvement in integrated activities and has assisted Arts Project Australia in the promotion and marketing of their artwork.

Arts Project Australia, celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year, was established to support the development and training of people with intellectual disabilities in the visual arts.

Over two decades the APA has established an international reputation for excellence with its innovative studio-based program and two galleries with regular changing exhibitions. The Supported Employment Program has been an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the vocational nature of the Art Project Australia's program and achieved a new benchmark in serving and promoting artists with intellectual disability.

The six participating artists in the Supported Employment Program are: Dorothy Berry, Valerio Ciccone, Alan Constable, 'Jimmy' Harold Fuller, Julian Martin and John Northe. Their artworks encompass a range of styles, mediums and subject matter. Berry's work is autobiographical and uses images of people, clowns, fish and birds. Northe explores images from popular culture, and he concentrates on female celebrities, buffaloes and Indians. Fuller

enjoys solving technical and representational difficulties and often depicts images from mythology. Constable is attracted to the themes of landscape and animals. Martin is fascinated by tonal difference and unusual colour combinations, and Ciccone's work is characterised by humour and an acute ability for visual analysis.

Their achievements singularly or as a group are impressive. Over fifteen shows have been organised for artists and work has been included in exhibitions in Sydney, China and Europe.

In a stunning achievement, Martin's work was selected for inclusion in the very prestigious 1994 Moët & Chandon Touring Art Exhibition. Artists have had numerous sales and an entire exhibition of twenty-three works were sold together to one collector.

Director of Arts Project Australia, Cheryl Daye, says "We believe this has been one of the most successful programs of its kind and demonstrates that people with intellectual disabilities can make a valuable contribution to society given adequate support and opportunity. It has been so exciting to see the creative progress made by all the individuals involved and the increased professional recognition for their work."

If you wish further information. Contact Joyce Agee, Promotions and Development Officer or Cheryl Daye, Director, on (03) 482-4484.

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