

**paintings,
prints
and
poles.**

**a group
exhibition.**

ARTS
Access


Australia Council

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'Working towards independence' has been the theme of this exciting project. The culmination of the project is this exhibition 'Paintings, Prints and Poles'.

Fifteen emerging artists have worked with Jennifer McCarthy and Kerrie Peters to explore and develop their skills, to learn about and join in the art networks that are alive in Melbourne and to collaborate on mounting an exhibition of their own works.

This is the first opportunity the participants have had to be recognised as artists with a future.

The participating artists have achieved significant personal and artistic gains in the course of the project and it is reflected in the energy and the diversity of the works seen in the exhibition.

Arts Access believes that the arts can change people's lives for the better and, among other things, it works to assist potential professional artists to gain access to arts facilities and resources in the community.

Arts Access acknowledges the support of the Visual Arts/Craft Board and the Community Cultural Development Unit of the Australia Council in funding the project and the many businesses and individuals who have offered 'in-kind' support.

Finally, thank you to all the artists involved in bringing 'Paintings, Prints and Poles' together.

As always your art has enriched our community.

Kate Brennan

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY



The Artists

Lee Burgess
Mimo Martelli
Fran McGavin
Bruce Morrison
Anne Norris
Angela Pacgonis
Bruce Plant

Connie Reed
Sue Robinson
Cathy Staughton
Cathy Smith
Rowan Thomson
Brad Tilley
Carol Watson



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JENNIFER McCARTHY



Everytime I embark on the creation of a new drawing, print or sculpture I am presented with another opportunity to translate my world into line, shape and color – and I love it.

My pencil drawings have become a visual diary recording an endless variety of patterns and textures collected from my everyday experience. Some shapes and forms have made themselves at home in my visions and are to be found constantly, re-appearing in new compositions.

On the completion of my fabric sculpture I felt like a Mary Poppins character walking into the world of her drawings. The realisation of a pencil mark into three dimensions is always an exciting artistic endeavour for me. I am constantly surprised at how the added dimension of form can change and animate a pencil drawing.

It was around this collection of 'totem-like' structures that our exhibition was to evolve. The isolation and separateness of the poles certainly reflected how we felt as a group when we first met.

Gradually the poles moved closer together and subsequently our composition and direction as a unit became clearer. Though individual artists have developed their own themes and ideas, the poles remain as an edifice, symbolic of our journey together.

The opportunity to work and share ideas in a group exhibition is always a rewarding experience. Although I find isolation a necessary element in the development of some of my work, I also value the input, friendship and discussion that a group show can offer.

People say I am young at 27 years of age, but I still wonder whether there will be time enough in my life to explore and create all the drawings and sculptures that color my thoughts.

KERRIE PETERS

I have been involved with textiles for over 20 years. Beginning with dolls clothes, I developed skills in garment design and garment making and gained a familiarity with textiles.

Since leaving the Education Department, I have pursued many different aspects of textile based work: garment design, commissioned art pieces, short course teaching, millinery and costume design.

By being so involved in textiles, I have found the techniques and skills I have accumulated are a perfect medium to express my creativity. I derive a great deal of pleasure from creating with textiles. I find the colour, texture and unique manipulative qualities so vast that I often feel I will never have time to explore all the ideas I glean from this lovely medium – but I have begun.

Without being conscious of including influential aspects of my life, I find that my work reflects my lifestyle. Touring Asia, diving on the Barrier Reef, being surrounded with beautiful birds and landscape in my younger years: all these experiences feature predominantly in the work I have produced for this exhibition.

Our world is troubled. We cannot ignore the sadness and personal hardships, but there is beauty if we look. My work is a celebration of this beauty. Like many, I am influenced by the beauty in nature and the simplicity of life that reflects the humanity and goodness of people. This is what I strive to portray and this is why I create.





LEE BURGESS

Although I had done upholstery in the past, the only artwork I'd ever done was at school a long time ago. Since I have been coming to this Arts Access project, my work has improved greatly – especially my screen printing, dying and sculpting. I've really enjoyed learning how to use the sewing machines and have made some great appliques. I hope people get as much enjoyment from seeing our work as we got from creating it.



MIMO MARTELLI

Although I haven't been involved in the arts for many years, I love to draw and paint at home. I especially love to draw people, trees, houses and forests – my favourite colors are red and green. I have really enjoyed being part of the group. I loved working on the sculptures as the lines the fabric make are really nice. It's good to work on something bigger than you. I am glad my work will be put on show as it will make me feel good to have people look at my work.



FRAN McGAVIN

I have studied music since an early age and am competent in several instruments including guitar, piano, flute and voice. I am also learning to compose and arrange music. I have a passion for the visual arts including drawing and painting. Through this Arts Access project I have had the opportunity to gain practical experience in the area of print and design. I also have an interest in drama, dance, poetry and short story writing. In the long term, I hope to put all these areas together and combine them with natural therapy work to help people with emotional and intellectual difficulties. This is a dream of mine that I hope will come true.



BRUCE MORRISON

I draw my designs first, then I use paints and pencil to complete the work. The work I do here with Arts Access is different to the work I do at home. I use a smaller brush at home on paper, but here I use a board to paint my pictures on.



ANNE NORRIS

In the past, I studied graphic design and other art subjects for four years, as well as working with well-known Australian artists. Being part of this Arts Access project has re-kindled my interest in the arts. It has increased my self-awareness and inspired me to improve my appearance and well-being. This has made my family very happy. Some additional benefit has come from the circle of friends that I have made here over the past six months. My involvement in this group is so important to me that I have taken a part-time job in order to help pay for any additional expenses that might occur. All in all, I find the experience totally rewarding from both a creative and personal point of view.



ANGELA PACGONIS

I like drawing, painting, sketching, coloring in and cutting cardboard. I quite often do art work at home. Sometimes I draw nice coloured pictures about countries and places. My favourite things I like to draw are people, and the colors I like the most are yellow, pink and blue.



BRUCE PLANT

Because language itself is a contract between people binding their mutual destinies
I can see
I can say: I see
I can be silent
Yet my silence says
just as much as my answer
Everything is to be included.
Think not only of positives
Think of not is as well
as is, is being only half
– one side of Picasso's coin.

CONNIE REED

The day I started with this group, I was not sure whether I would stay or not. I was not interested in what they said they were going to do – I just sat and looked at everyone and could not get started. I thought I was too old, being a pensioner, and the others were much younger. But once I'd done a few drawings, I went on to painting and have never looked back. I just want to thank Jenny and Kerrie for being so nice and helpful and Arts Access for giving me a chance.



SUE ROBINSON

The choice of words is endless. I could compare art to the liquid sun and the crystallised moon in its scope and illumination. Or perhaps to the rose camellia tree for its depth and beauty. I have learnt new things and techniques – printing, painting, drawing and even mural painting. Also, I have made new friends and I have had my sense of humour ready every session and oh, how I have laughed. The future looks better with, perhaps, a paintbrush in my hand. Who knows what the future holds, after all I didn't expect this.



CATHY STAUGHTON

I like drawing all the people in the group. I am interested in ancient Egypt and like to draw and cut pictures out of Queen Nephthiti. I like painting clothes, as well as sewing them. I have made a hat and dress with sequins. I really like the people in the group and love to draw pictures for them.



CATHY SMITH

My favourite work with the group was the painting and the screen printing. The colours I like best are red and black and I use them in lots of my paintings. I helped with painting the totem poles and we made some paper which was really interesting. Although I missed some of the sessions because I was swimming in the disabled Olympics, I have made a lot of friends in the group and I will miss them when the project is over.



ROWAN THOMSON

My drawings are that of a lost city, a city of industrial mayhem. Three major factories have closed down near my Richmond home, so my studio is surrounded by empty, useless factories which, to me, are symbols of Australia approaching the worst economic crisis in its history. By reason of my environment, my drawings are not happy – but that does not mean I cannot do happy work. I have often done pleasant work when in the country or a nice garden. All of my work reflects the environment in which I am working, rather than copying from life or real things. This could be called working from one's imagination, plus I have the psychological effect of an empty industrial environment reflected in the black of my work – a comment on my world.



BRAD TILLEY

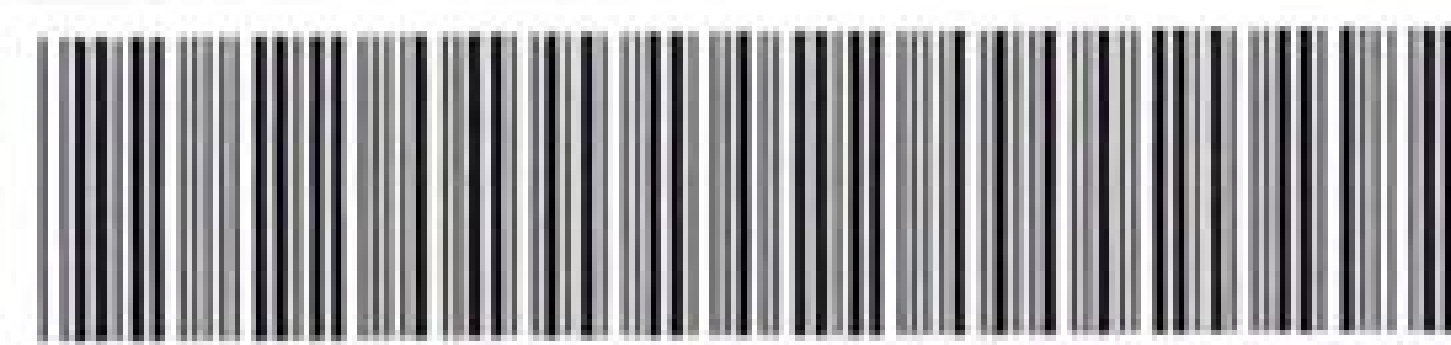
Until this project, I was not very confident in my work. Now, though, I feel much more confident to try different things. Since the project started, I've done photography, silk screen printing, fabric dying, drawing and sculpture. In the future, I'd like to keep art as a main interest and use some of the skills I've developed.



CAROL WATSON

I dearly love my work as an artist and do not do it for money. I have made no money from my work as yet but would be happy if I could make enough to pay for the materials I need. My work goes in stages – for weeks or months at a time it simply flows from me. A particular theme will stay with me for this period and then I have my dry spells when I do not create. Although I am not working directly during these dry spells, I am inwardly changing and subconsciously developing ideas for my next bout of work. My present theme is 'mermaids'. As a child I used to create worlds of mermaids. Mermaids made from plasticine in miniature. Mermaids living in villages under the sea. I have always had a great love for the sea.





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