

Access Arts presents...

Final Touches

an exhibition of members selected works

By creating art and continually developing skills in various mediums, the artists exhibited here show us that disability doesn't mean an individual can't succeed or excel as a model to remind us that creating art is a human right, not a luxury. This exhibition amplifies various styles of self-expression and allows us to see the diversity in disability and the type of people members of the Access Arts community.

The type of problem is one which only members can reach if we plan to having completely tangible in that it means that some experiences. The relationship of art and disability is finally being recognized as not only a necessity, but it also gives meaning to our participation in the world of art and the world we live in. This is especially true in the area of disability. Meaning, in an accessible form, we can see the world in a new way. What do I bring in this ever-changing world?

Final Touches is a series of works that show the diversity of disability and the significant role it plays in the lives of people who are part of the community.

The Artists:

At Smith: Mike Smith, a young man with a physical disability, has a creative colour and style in his work. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art.

Dave Pugh: Dave is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art.

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Rudi Dierckx: Rudi is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art.

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Angus Campbell: Angus is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art.

Michael Knight: Michael is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art. He is a member of the community and has his own method of creating art.

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By creating art and continually developing skills in different art forms, the artists exhibited here show us that 'disability culture' is to be admired and should be used as a model to remind us that creating art (whatever format) is for everyone. This exhibition explores several styles of art making which allows us to see the diversity in disability and the type of artistic creation derived from the disability platform.

This type of platform is one which only recently has begun to be seen as having community benefits in that it creates 'inclusive' environments. The relationship of art and disability is finally being recognised as not only therapeutic, but it also gives meaning to our perception of life and allows us to better understand the world and our place in it. This is especially true for people who experience disability. Meaning, truth, acceptance, how am I perceived in the eye of others, where do I belong in this ever-changing environment?

Final Touches explores some of these issues, the cultural diversity of disability and the significant contribution that people with disability make to their community.

The Artists:

Al Smith: Al has been developing a style of painting which allows him to combine colour and form to create abstract, conceptual art which, combined with his own method of frame making, gives the impression that the picture and making art goes beyond the perimeters of the frame.

Dean Pusell: Dean has developed his own style of painting primarily with acrylics on canvas over several years of experimentation with content, technique and colour. Dean is a prolific young artist who's work *Bitten, Broken, Believed* was recently published as a card for the Youth Help Hotline.

Rudi Siebritz: Rudi's work has taken him through many different styles of painting, with most of his work depicting images of his own experiences, this work tells real life stories of real people and environments.

Angus Douglas: Art for Angus is an ongoing process of exploration with technique and format. Art at any time on anything that may be available make Angus's work unique. By continually challenging his own boundaries, Angus aims to move into larger scale pieces depicting his story, the environment in which he lives and the people who move through this environment.

Michael Knights: Michael's work is ever changing and explores mood and colour as a way of depicting social circumstance. In 1996 Michael won a special prize in an Asia Pacific Region Art contest participated by people with disabilities for the Tanpopo-No-Ye foundation in Japan.

Robert Oakman: Through the exploration of colour and mark making, Robert has developed a style of painting which allows him to better communicate his view of the world and his contribution to it. Painting with a head piece, Robert enjoys challenging the overall view of good art.

Dorothy Clews: Tapestry and the expression of ideas through this art form enables Dorothy to fully explore colour, and texture. Depicting emotional themes and landscape with specific use of colour which gives Dorothy's work a unique quality and standard. This allows her the opportunity to move into the broader art world with the confidence to fully articulate her ideas.

Thurston Crimp: Thurston continues to develop his conceptual style of work which is based on the 'duality of non-verbal communication' thus creating imagery of the two worlds of the deaf. Having the opportunity to express himself both within the world of sign language as well as orally gives Thurston an 'entry ticket into the community of the human being'. He has had several articles and essays published in various magazines in and around Townsville.

Bill Van der Kolk: Bill has been a practicing artist for many years before acquiring a disability. Through ongoing skill development, Bill is currently re-establishing his own technique and style, which allows him to explore and communicate circumstance, environment and mood.

Lesa Hepburn: Lesa is a well established Queensland based artist working primarily in paper, fibre and textiles. Lesa explores issues relevant to women and in particular the place of women in western society. The tensions that exist between domestic and artistic lives are now a major theme in her work. Lesa was president of the Qld Paper Makers Association in 1995 and facilitated and co-ordinate the Red Hot Fibre show at the Mt. Coot-tha Botanical Gardens.

Peter Shields: Peter has participated in a range of workshops with Access Arts over the last eight years. His work has been displayed in several exhibitions. Recently he began to explore the slip trail technique and produced a number of creative pieces during the term one workshops.

Ceramic Plates: These pieces are products of the Access Arts term one workshop programme. The plates were produced as a group project under the artistic eye of Linda Dennis the supervising Artist.

Final Touches celebrates disability and it's culture, with the unique representation of Brisbane and regional based artists. While some **Final Touches** are a requirement of any professional artist to be represented in an exhibition environment, Access Arts trust that the artists here will continue to add their **Final Touches** to many more works of such high standard in the future.

FINAL TOUCHES EXHIBITION: AUGUST 21 - SEPTEMBER 10 1997

<u>ARTIST</u>	<u>NAME OF PIECE</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
Al Smith	Black and Blue Action	\$30.00 (blue frame) \$30.00 (red frame)
Dean Pusell	Bitten, Broken, Believed Nocturnal Freedom for Women	NFS NFS
Rudi Stiebritz	Cave Dwellers The Student	\$250.00 \$325.00
Angus Douglas	Indoors Outdoors Time Dreaming (cubes sugar dreaming)	\$183.00 \$185.00
Michael Knights	Primary Sleep Freeway	\$120.00 (steel frame) \$150.00
Robert Oakman	Burnt Trees Flower Wonderland	NFS NFS
Dorothy Clews	On The Inside Looking Out On The Edge	\$1700.00 \$2000.00
Thurston Crimp	A Portrait of Kylie Buchanan x 2	NFS
Bill Van der Kolk	Mood	NFS
Lesa Hepburn	Vagina Dentate 2, 3 and 4 Dip Bitch (2 piece)	\$180.00 each \$280/140 each
Peter Shields	Ceramic Slip Trails	NFS

Ceramic Plates Access Arts Term One workshop program: Linda Dennis facilitating artist.
NFS