

KEEP

MINORITY MAJORITY
EXHIBITION

July/August, 2005



NEWS

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the July edition of Access Arts News. After reading about the vast array of Disability Action Week events in which Access Arts was involved, I hope you will forgive us if we seem somewhat dazed for the rest of the month. Seriously though, we have been very excited by the diversity of the events we have attended and thank our many partner organisations for their support during the week.

In this issue we invite you to submit a proposal to run a community workshop in October/November, you will read about a very successful day spent hosting a group of Korean students at Access Arts and much more. Though I have tried desperately to prevent it, you will have the opportunity to learn more about me this month in our staff profile.

We have also included some information about the "Sound Circles Tool Kit" which consists of a DVD and booklet providing insights into the Sound Circles process and ideas on developing your own Sound Circle.

Before you immerse yourself in all this, a reminder that the Members' Advisory Committee provides an opportunity for members to provide feedback and comments regarding Access Arts. Brian Dore is the spokesperson for the Advisory Committee. If you would like to contact him, please phone the office on 3358 6200 or 1300 663 651 for callers outside Brisbane and we will put you in touch with him.

I would like to thank staff and volunteers who have contributed to preparing this edition of Access Arts News. This has been a particularly busy month and it would have been impossible without your support.

Happy reading.

Emma Bennison
Editor

Emma's Profile

LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR STAFF PROFILE

1. When did you join AAI?

I joined in 2001. I had heard of AAI before then but had been unsure about what they could offer me as I was working as a professional artist and had only heard about entry level workshops. I attended the Wataboshi Music Festival in Taiwan in 2001 and it was at this time that I learned about the range of options available to members.

2. What made you decide to work for AAI?

My involvement on the Management Committee over three years had increased my interest in AAI. I had previously worked for the Government in jobs which had been largely unfulfilling apart from a few notable exceptions. I had also received a Bachelor of Music from the University of Queensland in 1996 and was becoming increasingly frustrated that I wasn't utilising any of this knowledge.

3. What did you do before coming to AAI?

Lots of things. Worked in a call centre, worked with people with disabilities to achieve their training goals, some

counselling, worked in industrial relations and of course lots of singing and a bit of playing the piano when it was unavoidable.

4. What is your favourite food?

Chocolate without a doubt, others in the office will back this one up. I mustn't let this opportunity pass without mentioning my favourite beverage, Coke. It's more than a favourite, it's an addiction.

5. What is your favourite song?

Hmm. I have thousands and they change according to what's going on in my life. At the moment it would be "You Raised Me Up" by Josh Groban.

6. Do you have a favourite movie?

No, not really. I watch plenty of movies, although not so much these days as my son Julian is almost two and we both enjoy lots of Wiggles DVDs!

7. What is your star sign?

Scorpio

8. If you were sent to a desert island, what would you take with you?

My husband Vaughn, my little boy Julian and my MP3 player so I would have heaps of music. I guess I would also need my laptop since I always have to be working on something. I'd be lost if they didn't have internet access!

9. Where do you see yourself in ten years time?

I would like to have another child by then and I would be working in the arts. I can't see myself doing anything else now, it's where I'm comfortable.

10. What is your philosophy on life?

Always look for the positives in any situation, no matter how bad things seem. Easier said than done at times, but I try.

ALL THE ACTION FROM DISABILITY ACTION WEEK

18-31 July 2005

Minority in Majority - an indigenous and disability art exhibition

Footsteps Gallery

Old School of Arts Building

166 Ann St Brisbane

Gallery Opening Hours:

10am to 5pm Monday to Friday

Access Arts wishes to congratulate Footsteps Gallery staff and volunteers and Salubrious Productions on the exciting Minority in Majority Exhibition opening. The exhibition was opened by The Governor her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce and Mr Neal Roberts MP Nudgee, in an exciting atmosphere with a standing room only for the jam-packed audience. Welcome to country was provided by Uncle Albert Holt.

In the main gallery, the works of featured artists David Williams and Tim Ware provided an interesting contrast of content: one providing entry into indigenous cultural practice and the other focusing on exploration in to the western colour field tradition.

On the balcony floor a rich collection of the works of contemporary indigenous paintings was thoughtfully curated.

A centre piece of the evening, the Black Box Sculpture Competition won by artist Joelle Simonsen provided another mode of arts experience in which the audience was

invited to explore works tactilely without the aid of vision. The exhibition was judged by Ms Quentin Bryce, Mr Andrew Fraser Member for Mount Cootha and Mr John Stafford of the Public Art Agency.

Entertainment was provided by Indigenous dancers, David Williams, Belinda Andreussi, Janelle Colquhoun, Emma Bennison, Vaughn Bennison, Caitlin McMorrow and Actor George Prince.

Delicious foods were provided by Dale Scott, The Dilly Bag.

Funding and support was provided through a Building Inclusive Communities Grant, Disability Services Queensland; Footsteps Gallery; Access Arts; Reverse Garbage; Royal Blind Foundation; and Salubrious productions.

CROSSROADS EXHIBITION

Cross Roads West Chermside - Coloured thoughts – a journey of discovery
Wednesday 20th July 2005.

Access Arts' Executive Director Ross Barber and Ms Louise Cullinan Brisbane Outsider Artists Manager along with 150 invited guests attended the opening of Coloured thoughts – a journey of discovery. The exhibition was the culmination of months of hard work by the dedicated Crossroads West Chermside Organisation staff, volunteers and artists.

Access Arts provided specific arts knowledge through consultation via Louise Cullinan and the provision of materials in-kind. A series of skilling workshops for the artist and Crossroads staff and volunteers was delivered through the organisational partnership by artist Cathy Condon in the BOA studios at Access Arts in the Brisbane Powerhouse precinct. Access Arts has a policy of delivering skills into organisations

to assist the sustainability of their arts programs.

Access Arts has purchased a work *Guy's song* by artist Naomi Fletcher from the exhibition for its collection.

King George Square Disability Action Week Public Concert Thursday 21st July 2005

A large lunchtime crowd was entertained non-stop during a public concert in King George Square during Disability Action Week.

Access Arts was pleased to facilitate the concert in King George Square in partnership with Salubrious Productions' Janelle Colquhoun and the Disability Action Week State Planning Committee with assistance from Brisbane City Council and part in-kind support from Events in Tents.

MC and singer songwriter Peter Vance introduced the Fab Freddy Frills and his long suffering straight man Daniel Anderson. Rocker, Jack Gabler and the bigger than Big Band Musical Chairs followed giving the audience a feast of music styles and experiences.

Friday 22nd July - Tweed City of Art - No Strings Attached Exhibition

During Disability Action Week Access Arts Executive Director Ross Barber was invited to open the exhibition No Strings Attached and the multi-arts entertainment to an audience of 180 at the Tweed City of Arts Community Arts Centre in Murwillumbah. It is only eight months ago when Ross was invited to do a presentation of possibilities at the Community Arts Centre by project coordinator Anne-Marie Lysiak. Even at that first meeting Ross felt that he was carrying coals to Newcastle and on opening No

Strings that feeling was confirmed. With only a short time to plan and develop and deliver the various skilling programs No Strings bodes well for the future outcomes. The quality of the exhibition was exceptionally high and the entertainment from the singers, drummers, dancers and actors was infectious.

No Strings points to a region that crackles with high creativity through Arts and Community Cultural development.

MEMBERS ATTEND 11TH WORLD CONGRESS OF MUSIC THERAPY

Emma Bennison

From 19-23 July, 550 delegates attended the 11th World Congress of Music Therapy held at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The Congress theme, "From Lullaby to Lament" provided the scope for delegates to explore the power of music across the life cycle.

Access Arts assisted the WMTC Organising Committee to apply for funding from the Department of Family and Community Services to enable people with disabilities and their support workers to attend the Congress. Four Access Arts members were supported to attend the Congress: Stephen Sakach and Jill Blackman from Cairns and Peter Vance and Emma Bennison from Brisbane. All four are facilitators of their local Sound Circles groups.

Peter presented a paper entitled "From Ashes to Art - a re-creation experience". In his presentation he told of his journey from life as an agriculturalist, through losing his sight as a result of retinitis pigmentosa and his mental breakdown due to Bipolar disorder, to his current work as one of the facilitators of the Brisbane Sound Circles group and as a singer, songwriter and

motivational speaker. He said: "music virtually saved my life" as he used his original songs to tell his story. His presentation received high praise, but perhaps the most poignant was from a music therapist who expressed her gratitude to Peter for validating her work with people with disabilities.

In this issue of "Access Arts News" you will find information about the "Sound Circles Tool Kit". Emma Bennison who co-facilitates the Brisbane Sound Circles group presented a poster over two days which provided information about Sound Circles and the Tool Kit. "The DVD which makes up part of the Tool Kit was playing throughout to give delegates a taste of the Sound Circles experience and to ensure that those with vision-impairments of whom there were several would not be excluded from the presentation. There was overwhelming interest, which provided many opportunities to meet musicians and music therapists from around the world and spread the word about Sound Circles" she said.

Stephen Sakach commented that "one of the highlights of the Congress was learning new music including Brazilian songs and new composition techniques which I will be able to take back to the Sound Circles group in Cairns. I would also like to thank Access Arts and the Brisbane Sound Circles group for their hospitality during our stay."

Jill Blackman found the choices about which sessions to attend overwhelming. Once again it was confirmed for her that music is a companion to healing.

As well as attending the Congress, Jill and Stephen joined with Brisbane Sound Circles for their Saturday afternoon

workshop as part of the Queensland Music Festival. They also enjoyed the opportunity to meet with eight of the twelve members of the team who will travel to Aichi, Japan in September to present Sound Circles at World Expo 2005.

For further information about Sound Circles please contact Access Arts on 3358 6200 or 1300 663 651 for callers outside Brisbane.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITH KOREA

Nick Reilly

On the 30th of June 2005 Access Arts played host to 20 visiting students and their team leader Jung Eun-Youn and Translator Park Jung-Soo from the Paradise Welfare Foundation in Korea.

We started the day with a welcome speech which I delivered in Korean. The speech was written by Sin, a Korean student from the Gateway International College who worked with us for eight weeks. Following this we took our visitors on a tour of the Powerhouse, who were unfortunately in between exhibitions, so there was not much for them to see! We had better luck when the group visited the Brisbane Outsider Artists Studio which is managed by Access Arts. BOA Manager, Louise Cullinan answered some difficult questions about our funding, and was able to give the visitors an idea of the work Access Arts Member's produce.

We then headed across to the New Farm Neighbourhood Centre for a delicious Barbeque, prepared by Gregg Schouten with help from Peter Donato. Tim Ware brought some Kim Chi, a traditional Korean dish, which was very popular amongst our

visitors, who were no doubt missing their usual cuisine by then.

After lunch Emma Bennison and Peter Vance led a Sound Circles workshop. The Korean students had a great time, and learnt a few of our traditional songs and a bit of slang.

We also celebrated the International Week of Volunteers by inviting our hard-working volunteers to join us in welcoming our visitors, and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation as a token of our gratitude. We will be hosting another group of visiting Korean students in August, and hope that their visit will be as successful and enjoyable as the last. Members please contact the office if you would like to attend.

Collectables VIP tour

Ria Parsons

Vision-impaired people rarely have the opportunity to touch art works. They are usually reliant on the descriptions of others to get a sense of what the works are like. On Saturday, 2 July, Access Arts partnered with the CQ Gallery at Fortitude Valley to allow a small group of vision-impaired people to feel a range of works from the Collectables Show and the CQ Store.

Works included: Two patchwork quilts made from different fabrics and other found objects, Jewellery made from shells, seeds and other materials, dresses and other garments with embroidery, shoes, woven baskets and vases.

I personally really valued the opportunity to feel the works because it gave me the chance to understand what the works were about and to learn that there are many

different art forms than just a painting on canvas.

Access Arts is working with Craft Queensland to organise more events which are accessible for people who are blind and vision-impaired. I would encourage other vision-impaired members to take the opportunity to participate in these exhibitions so that they can also have the chance to interact with the works and understand their true meaning.

Access Arts would like to thank Craft Queensland and particularly Andrea Higgins for opening the gallery to members and for giving of their time to provide the background to the works on display. Thankyou to the Access Arts volunteers who drove the bus and assisted in the tour. We would also like to sincerely thank the artists who so willingly allowed their works to be touched. This was a memorable experience which we look forward to repeating in the future.

Belinda's in the Courier-Mail!

The following article appeared in the Courier-Mail on 16 July. One of our artists from the Brisbane Outsider Artist Studio, Belinda Peel was mentioned. Some of you may have seen Belinda's work on the cover of our 2004 Annual Report.
The Courier Mail July 16-17, 2005

Jon Hall, Director of Hall & Jones, Advertising & Design

Jon Hall has been buying works of art for the past 18 years. He doesn't specialise, but says his inclination is towards modern art, and young, emerging artists.
"I don't buy to fill holes on a wall – I struggle to find walls big enough for some pieces," he says. "I don't buy as decoration, I buy

because the work strikes a chord, or has a history of it."

He also doesn't buy for investment. Some of his works have increased tenfold but there are many others which haven't, because the artist has stopped painting or simply disappeared.

He collects ceramics because he loves the textures and feels this type of work is undervalued because of artists/artisan "snobbery".

"What do I get from it – apart from something to look at? Another view.

Access to an alternative thought process." Some of the pieces stimulate him mentally; others are more "meditative", quieter works. "I'm not a thrash-about, aggressive person. I do have energetic pieces, but most are calmer."

He is starting to run out of wall space but has no plans to "recycle and move on". He says his works are bought to keep, and so far these include pieces by Robert Brownhall, Ian Smith, Paul Fareweather, Janis Somerville, Dennis Nona, Sharon Jewell and Belinda Peel.

WORKSHOP PROPOSALS WANTED

Access Arts is hoping to offer an eight week pilot series of community workshops on Wednesdays and Thursdays in October/November. The workshops will be open to members of the wider community and will be user pays, so you do not need to be a member of Access Arts to attend.

The venue for the workshops will be the Brisbane Outsider Artists (BOA) space at Access Arts. Workshops will cover a variety of art forms.

If you are interested in presenting workshops in the series, we would love to hear from you. You will need to provide a proposal including the following information:

- ❖ Details of the workshop content and schedule
- ❖ Minimum/maximum number of participants if applicable
- ❖ Workshop budget including your fees and costs of materials

The closing date for proposals is 14 September. Please contact the office with any queries on 3358 6200.

COMING UP

August Workshops

Our Term 3 Block 2 workshops are on Saturday mornings 6th - 27th August 2005 10am-12noon. Cost \$35 for 4 week block.

The Circus needs you!

Join the circus workshops today and learn acrobatics, juggling, hoops, aerial skills and much more: Where too much fun is never enough!

Helen from Vulcana will be running this entry-level workshop. Cost: \$35

Soap Stone Sculpture

Come and explore the soft malleability of Soapstone. Feel its smooth powdery texture, as you turn it in your hands and carve and then refine it with tools. Watch as the shapes emerge, reveal themselves.

Over 4 weeks we will work with a range of tools that include chisels, rasps and sand paper. I will work with each person, to help them to reveal the essence of what they wish to express using this medium.

Please wear old clothes or bring an old smock/shirt to cover clothes, as it may get a bit dusty. All other materials will be provided. This workshop will be run by Madeleine van Leer. Cost- \$35

Marketing Your Art- Visual Arts

This workshop is aimed at people who already have a body of work. Stephanie Outridge-Field will give you practical tips and pointers on how to effectively promote your art. There will be the opportunity to photograph and catalogue your work as well as useful information on insurance of your paintings and your rights and responsibilities in exhibitions. These will be hands-on sessions to produce a marketing plan and supporting material. Places are limited, so enrol now. Cost: \$35

Sound Circles continues Saturday afternoons 1-3pm from 9 July – 27 August. Come along and join the fun where you'll explore sounds, rhythms, improvisation and presentation in a unique music workshop experience. Cost: \$70 / 8 week term

Drumming

Our free Friday afternoon drumming sessions are continuing. They are held in the boa studios of Access Arts 1-3pm every Friday. Cost: FREE

Website Update

Our website has been updated. It now has a new interface and is being continually updated with what's happening at Access Arts. Check it out at www.accessarts.org.au. If you don't have web access, we have computers in the office that are available for members' use at no cost. Please call the office to book a computer.

WHAT'S ON?

2high Festival

Brisbane's 2high Festival returns in August bringing with it a heady mix of music, art and performance all produced and created by young people aged 16 to 25 years. This year 100 artists and performers will be exhibiting works and productions over two days from 26-27 August which is open to the public and is free to enter. As well as seeing and hearing the works of festival participants, guests will be able to join in a range of industry professional-run workshops like songwriting, clowning, recyclable wearable art, indigenous sand painting and fire twirling. Backbone Youth Arts searches all of South East Queensland each year to present this festival which is now in its 12th year. The 2high festival will be held in the Cremorne Theatre at QPAC, Southbank. For performance and workshop information visit www.backbone.org.au, email info@backbone.org.au or telephone (07) 3210 2666.

Brisbane International Film Festival

Movie buffs, get out your diaries and book your annual leave - you're going to love the 14th Brisbane International Film Festival presented by Vision (BIFF). Three venues, dozens of movies, plus events and film awards means Brisbane is a movie mecca from 27 July to 8 August. For the first time, the festival will be staged at South Bank Cinemas and Suncorp Piazza as well as the Regent Cinemas, BIFF's traditional home. Don't miss this golden opportunity to mingle with movie stars and filmmakers - book your tickets now!

State Library of Queensland Twofold Artist Talk + Catalogue Launch: 6-7pm 6th August. Is a screening program of recent works by Jemima Wyman and Mathew

Fletcher Program runs till 25th September
Free but bookings are essential please
RSVP to 38407768 or 32150850 info zone
at cultural centre auditorium south bank.

Free public programs @ QUT Art Museum, Gardens Cultural Precinct
2 George St (next to City Botanic Gardens)
U Block, Level 1, Gardens Point Campus
Ph (07) 3864 5370 Open Tues-Fri 10am-5pm, Wed until 8pm, Sat-Sun noon-4
www.culturalprecinct.qut.edu.au

Wednesday 3rd 6-7:30pm Film of *Donnie Darko*. Rating: M15 recommended for mature audiences. What would you do if you knew the future?

Donnie Darko sleepwalks out of his house one night, escaping death because he hears the voice of a giant rabbit, who tells him the world is soon to end. As Donnie tries to figure out why he survived, he is led by the bunny to create havoc that is both destructive and creative.

Friday 5th 12:15pm

Join artist *Stephen Hart* for a free tour of his sculptural exhibition *A Silent Walk*. Hart is a contemporary Australian sculptor who employs the recurring motifs of the 'Everyman' and a white rabbit to explore the meaning of life and also the contradictions and absurdities of existence.

Wednesday 10th 6-7pm

Public Forum in conjunction with Art workers Alliance Individual Consultations: Julie Ewington, Head of Australian Art, Queensland Art Gallery, will give a brief overview of her experience in the art industry and will be available to give general advice and answer all those burning art questions from the floor. **All welcome!**