

## 10 out of 10 for "10 + 10"

**"10 + 10" was the name of an exciting exhibition that opened the new Community Access Gallery at the National Gallery of Victoria in July.**

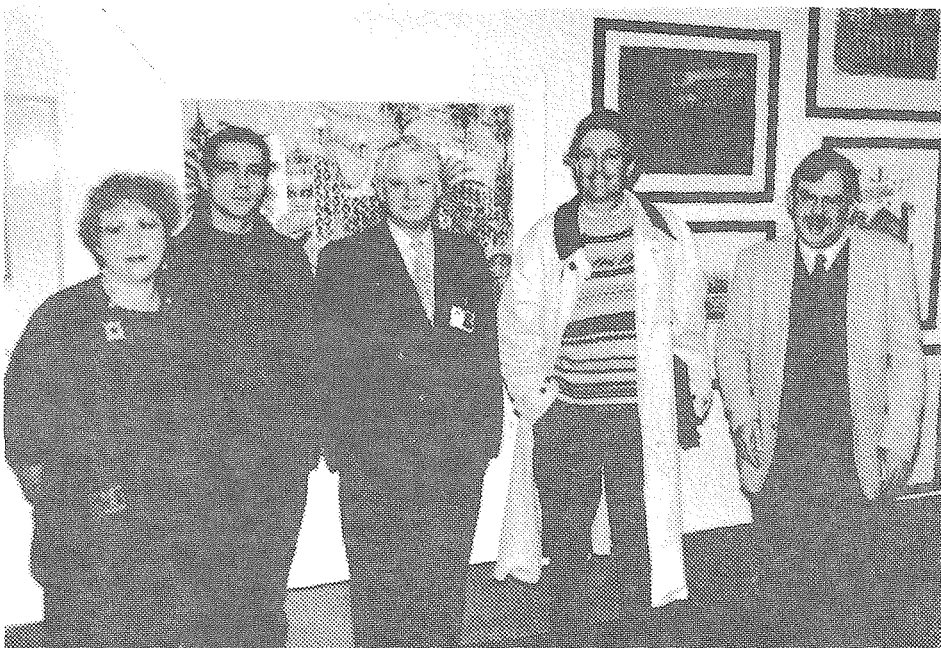
The exhibition was the result of an innovative project, known as the Host Artist Scheme run by Arts Access throughout the first half of this year. Funded by the William Buckland Foundation, the project was a unique event in that it brought together 10 of Melbourne's established artists with 10 emerging artists with disabilities as mentors and proteges.

The twenty artists were matched in teams of two, based on the compatibility of their artistic styles and their willingness to share their artistic intuition. Each pair worked together for a 10 week period. Dariusz Troc admits to being sceptical about the project to start with. "I lacked confidence in myself and in my work" he says.

Dariusz was paired with artist Danial Kogan. "When I first met Danial, at his studio, I was very anxious" he says. "But I soon realised that he accepted the way I was. I was all over the place - I couldn't concentrate, I couldn't talk properly - but he accepted this. Slowly, I started to open up. I told him about my history, my interest in painting, and my illness. He was extremely understanding"

Although Danial didn't give lessons as such, Dariusz learnt a lot through example. "At the time Danial was preparing for his own exhibition, so he was very active" says Dariusz. "I learnt a lot of technical things, like how to prepare canvases and apply oil paint. I could've read how to do these things in books but it was so much clearer and more exciting to learn by watching him work."

"Danial's work is concerned with the problem of the Holocaust" says Dariusz. At the exhibition Kogan showed a picture of poppies, painted in thick black paint. "The poppy, despite being a very beautiful flower, is symbolic of war and the tragedy of mankind" says Dariusz. Dariusz showed a portrait. "I'm more preoccupied with people - not only their physical appearances but with their emotions."



*From left, curator Tracey Naughton, artist Dariusz Troc, Director of the National Gallery of Victoria, James Mollison and artists Greg Irvine and John Shirres.*

Photography by Collin Bogaars

"Although our work is very different in terms of subject matter, our approaches to painting are very similar. Both of us come to the canvas without a clear idea of what we're going to paint - we have at first only a feeling, or a group of feelings, to work on." Had Dariusz and Danial just sat and talked, they may have found little in common. "Danial leads a very different life to me" says Dariusz. "He's fifty five and has a partner and child. I'm thirty two and single." But by working together, almost in silence, a strong link was established.

"Danial and I did very little talking. We started to build up a relationship through silent communication - through movements and gestures. I was affected by his tremendous warmth and vitality. He gave me a new optimism and energy." Dariusz rediscovered the joys of a close relaxed relationship and absorption in a challenging task.

"Before I was overwhelmed by a negative, pessimistic outlook and by suicidal tendencies. Working with Danial, I realised that the joy never really died in me, it had just been suppressed for one reason or another."

"I rediscovered those values that we all

sometimes forget but should treasure."

"My relationship with Danial reactivated my belief in people. Because he could accept me as I was, it helped me accept myself. Once you can accept the way you are you start to build up your self esteem." When the ten week project ended Danial told Dariusz that he was welcome to keep coming to the studio.

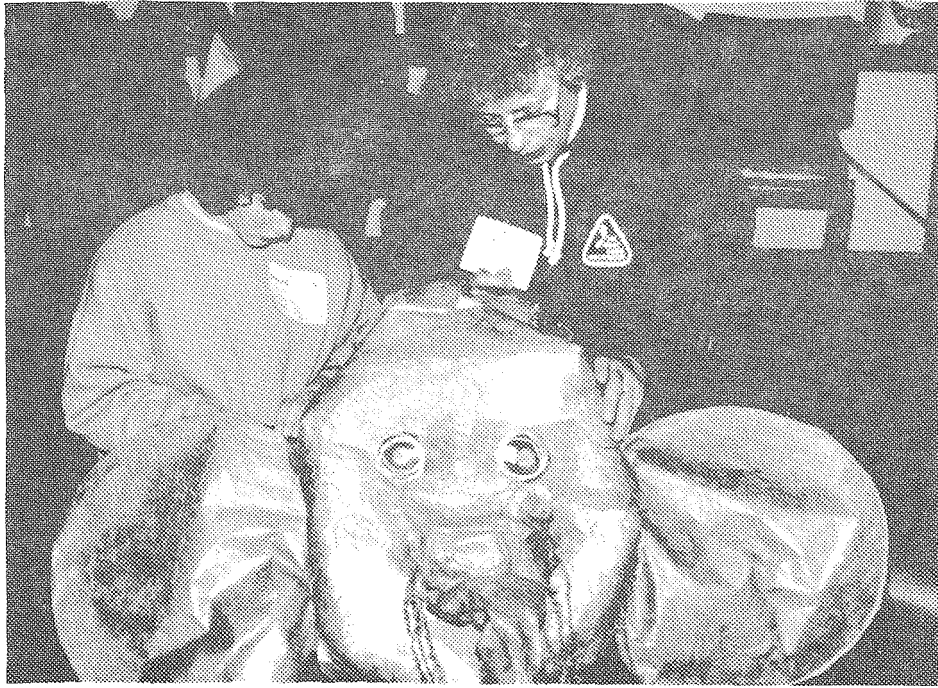
Dariusz agreed to represent the artists at the opening ceremony. Along with Arts Access' Executive Director, Judith Isherwood and James Mollison, the director of the National Gallery, Dariusz addressed the 150 or so people crowded into the gallery's foyer.

"It was a very big day for me. Without the experience of working with Danial - without his sympathy and encouragement - I would never have been able to stand up and make that speech." The "10 + 10" project enabled Dariusz to break out of his isolation in two ways.

First, through painting and second through his close relationship with Danial Kogan.

"I don't disassociate my artistic and personal life" says Dariusz. In both I have the same aim - to understand and communicate with people."

# Artward Bound



Results of the mask-making workshops.

**Artward Bound** was the name of a unique project held over a weekend in August at the Girl Guid escamp at Yarra Junction.

"It was a beautiful location, bordering a national forest," says Noelle Curry, Arts Access Artistic Project Officer.

"We had seven artists, doing visual arts, music, drama, mask and puppet-making, and screenprinting. Half of the guides had disabilities and the other half acted as their "buddies" over the weekend.

"The aim of all the workshops was practical - for instance, the drama culminated in the performance of a play, the screenprinters made t-shirts and the musicians recorded a song. On the Sunday afternoon, the groups presented their work to the others. This was followed by a party, where the girls could let their hair down. It was a supremely successful weekend."

Helen Mountfort and David Bridie - part of the Melbourne band "Not Drowning, Waving" - co-ordinated the music group. "We used the idea of being in the bush as a starting point for a song," say Helen. "Some of the girls worked on the music, using cello, keyboard and drums, while the others made up some very funny lyrics."

Helen discovered that in the arts, the word "disabled" is often a misnomer. "The disabled girls were incredibly enthusiastic and inventive" she says, "whereas a lot of the able-bodied girls were self-conscious about becoming involved."

"Once they'd had a go however, there was no stopping them."

## Murals at Mount Royal

Arts Access' work within Victoria's public hospitals has been expanding over the last few years, with projects currently running in the Austin Hospital, the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Mount Royal Hospital.

Mount Royal Hospital is Victoria's largest hospital caring principally for older people.

Artist Kim Tarpy, has been running a huge textile mural project with patients in the hospital's Rehabilitation Unit. Patients within this unit are there as a result of a range of problems, the most common of which are lower limb amputations, strokes and orthopaedic problems.

When finished, the nine piece mural will hang on a wall inside the Unit.

## Weekend workshops

### for people with psychiatric disabilities

*Each year, Arts Access runs an extensive series of programmes for people with psychiatric disabilities. This year two of these have been the Saturday art classes and drama workshops.*

*The Saturday afternoon art class ended on 31st August with an exhibition and celebration in the Arts Access Studio. Future art classes will now be held every Saturday in the Studio at the new time of 10.00 am - 12.00 pm. New participants are welcome, but bookings are necessary and can be made by phoning Arts Access on 699 8299.*

*The drama workshops at the Incinerator Theatre in Moonee Ponds have been such a success that a new class is being planned for either later this year or early next year. Call Arts Access if you want to find out more.*

## P-art-ICIPATE 1991

**Following last year's highly successful P-art-ICIPATE Conference, a series of practical arts workshops will be run in October.**

These workshops will focus on the interests of people with disabilities and will cover a number of different art forms.

Whether you were involved in last year's conference or not, these workshops will give you the chance to try new activities and to develop your existing interests.

The workshops are open to people with disabilities and interested individuals. If you know someone who might be interested, SPREAD THE NEWS! If you want an enrolment form, or you want to become involved in planning further activities, contact Arts Access.

# Hidden Treasures



Photography by Collin Bogaars

*Treasures on display.*

**Senior Citizens' Treasures was the name of an exciting exhibition staged earlier in September by Arts Access.**

"The exhibition featured hand made items and family heirlooms from senior citizens in Port and South Melbourne," says Diana Stewart, organiser of the show. There were some beautiful pieces, and some relatively ordinary items that have delightful histories.

For instance, some embroidered doilies had a surprising history. The woman who made them was taught to embroider by her father when she was seven years old. He'd just come back from the First World War. He'd been gassed and had learnt embroidering from the nurses while recuperating in a French hospital.

The exhibition, which was a collaboration between Arts Access and the cities of Port Melbourne and South Melbourne, will serve as a model for a much larger project to be run as part of Senior Citizens' Week 1992.

This project will be run throughout the Melbourne metropolitan region. It will feature a major exhibition in the National Gallery of Victoria's Community Access Gallery and a series of smaller exhibitions in local community venues.

"There were so many stories behind the objects that you could base a whole oral history project on them," says Diana.

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## A Roof of Their Own

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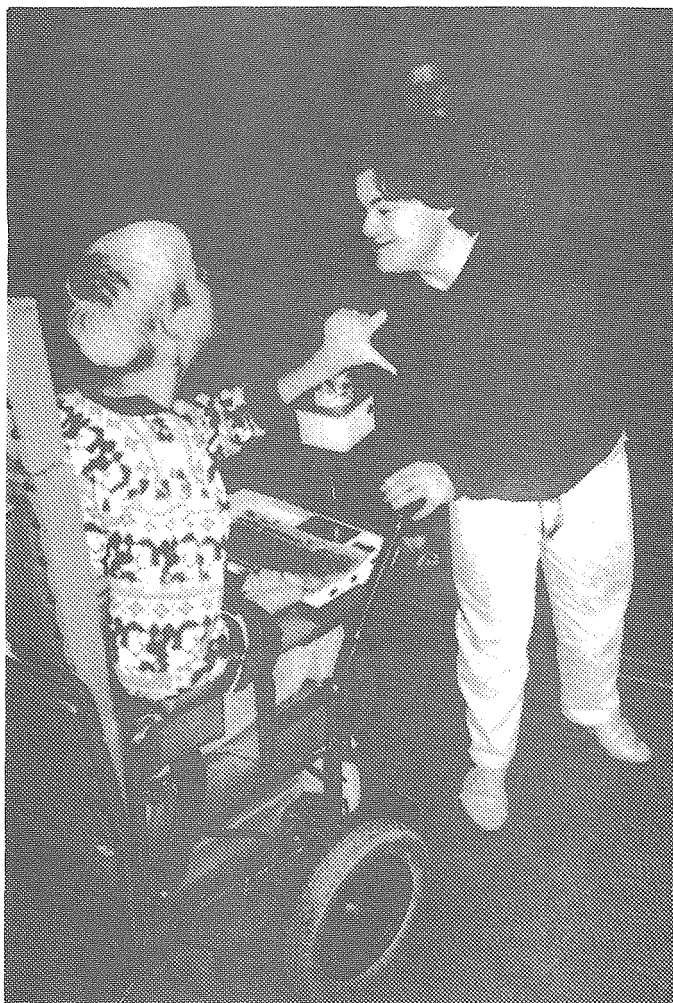
**A six-month project at Fairlea Women's Prison, entitled *A Roof of My Own*, has recently been completed. Funded by the Victorian Women's Trust, the project's aim was to help women who are coming out of prison find safe, secure housing.**

*The results of the project are two hour-long videos produced entirely by women at both Fairlea and Barwon Prisons with assistance from artists Maud Clark, Sally Marsden, Carey Lai and Greg Sneddon.*

*"The videos advise the women about the various housing options that are available and the various drug and alcohol rehabilitation services that are available," says Ray Richards. "They also include drama pieces illustrating common situations that the women find themselves in."*

*The videos were launched at the end of August and will be distributed to prisons and community groups throughout Victoria.*

## Showbiz shows how



Photography by Collin Bogaars

*Actors in the making!*

**An exciting training and skills development project – sponsored by the Stegley Foundation – is nearing completion. The project is run by Showbiz, Prahran TAFE's, Performing Arts course.**

"The aim is to give disabled performers an opportunity to become part of an integrated performance group," says Ray Richards. "There's a mix of participants, with both disabled and able-bodied people all working as a team."

The group has produced three street theatre pieces that will be performed at campuses in Melbourne and Geelong in the near future.

"The group has been so successful that the participants are planning to keep working together when the project ends," says Ray. "An added benefit is that Prahran TAFE has picked the concept up. From now on they'll be running a regular Showbiz course targeted at people with disabilities."

## Feelen Boordup –

## Feeling Good

**Early in September, more than 200 people gathered at the Fitzroy Allstars Gym for a very special event.**

The occasion was the opening of an exhibition featuring the works of 22 artists who are or were residents of Winja Ulupna and Galliamble, two hostels for Kooris with drug and alcohol problems.

The exhibition was the culmination of the Koori Arts Project, run throughout 1991 by Arts Access in association with the Central Metropolitan Region of Further Education with funding from the Department of Employment, Education and Training.

"The project aimed to empower and skill Koori men and women, enhancing their employment opportunities in the art world," says Jacqui Geia, Koori Arts Project Officer.

The participants have been instructed in a wide range of arts activities, including emu-egg carving, leatherwork, painting and pottery. In addition, personal management and self-development skills were included in the project.

Many of the participants had no arts experience at all prior to their involvement in the project. Which makes the many thousands of dollars worth of artworks sold during the exhibition all the more remarkable.

The quality of the exhibition was a showcase for the participants' talent and hopefully, many will continue to pursue this area of their lives in the future.

The success of this project has demonstrated that not only should the arts be accessible to everyone, but that everyone has the potential to participate in the arts, given the opportunity, the resources and the encouragement.

"The project has enabled participants to produce some outstanding works in a short space of time," said Jacqui. "It's provided a confidence boost that should have a positive effect on other aspects of their lives."

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*Thanks again to Graham Berry and Typographical Services, 97 Tope Street, South Melbourne*

*'Access' is edited by Mike Houghton. Contributions and letters are welcome and should be sent to Arts Access, 109-111 Sturt Street, South Melbourne.*

# Pleasant View

**Remember the advertisement that used the Grim Reaper to represent AIDS? It may have been a striking image, but it didn't help the thousands of Australians already diagnosed as having HIV.**

"The campaign encouraged an attitude of fear and doom towards AIDS" says Rhondah Whitaker, co-ordinator of the HIV Video Project, a component of the Arts Project currently being run at Pleasant View Drug and Alcohol Centre.

People think that the moment someone is diagnosed HIV positive, that's the end of them. They shut them out of their minds. In fact it can be years before HIV turns into AIDS. Some people are leading vigorous lives years after being diagnosed as HIV positive.

Participants in the HIV Video Project have all been diagnosed as HIV positive. The aim of the project is to dispel some of the gloom associated with AIDS.

"We put up posters in hospitals and medical centres, asking people with HIV to become involved" says Rhondah. "I was amazed at their positiveness and energy. After our first meeting they got together and wrote a short manifesto, explaining their situation.

"We decided to set the words to music and produce a thirty second video of broadcast quality" says Scott Presnall, Pleasant View's Occupational Therapist. "We hope to get it shown on TV, between the music clips on programmes like 'Rage'."

The HIV Video is just part of a very ambitious project worked out between Arts Access and the staff of Pleasant View, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre. The project will run for over six months and involve three groups working simultaneously.

"Given the state of the economy at the moment, finding funding can be difficult" says Ray Richards. "We're very pleased that the Myer Foundation agreed to finance the entire project."

Claire Humphrys-Hunt runs a visual arts group for the inmates of the drugs detoxification clinic. Rhondah Whitaker runs two groups - a drama group for people on a methadone programme and the HIV video project.

Scott Presnall sees no point in preaching to the converted. "We have to engage ordinary people who are full of fear and ignorance of AIDS" he says. "The group decided on a series of visuals that was stunning to look at and thought provoking, but not too specific."

The video will have bright primary colours and messages flashing across the screen in big letters, all set to a racy African beat.

"We're aiming for a carnival atmosphere" says Rhondah.

## 'Women Over 60' A Photographic Exhibition by Ruth Maddison

'Women Over 60', a photographic exhibition by Ruth Maddison at the Victorian Centre for Photography, will present to older people and women in particular, a positive image and confirmation of their ongoing contribution to society by encouraging them to maintain and extend their abilities.

Supported by the Stegley Foundation, the Lance Reichstein Charitable Foundation and Active at Any Age (with funds from the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation) the exhibition will run from the 22nd November to 23rd December 1991.

The Victorian Centre for Photography is located at 671 Rathdowne Street, Carlton.

## Arts Alive

As part of Senior Citizens' Week this year, Arts Access has produced an eight page booklet to help people plan creative activities for older adults.

It gives examples of activities that are possible and lists people and organisations to contact for further advice or resources.

The booklet is called "Arts Alive" and is full of colourful photographs of a variety of projects with older people. If you would like a copy contact Arts Access.

## Feast of Art

All participants and friends of Arts Access are invited to a Feast of Art, at Arts Access on 2nd November from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm. On the "menu" will be visual art from this year's projects, information about the ticketing service EASE, plans for future events, and plenty of food and drink. So come and feast with us. RSVP. Speak to Heather Graham for more information.

## Arts Access Studio

The Arts Access Studio is a pleasant, bright space at the back of Arts Access' South Melbourne offices that is available for hire. It measures about 6 x 14 metres and is fully accessible.

"We've had exhibitions and workshops in the Studio," says Studio Co-ordinator Diana Stewart, "but we want the general community to know it's here. It can be used for rehearsals, seminars, workshops, small performances and exhibitions - a whole range of things."

Hiring fees range from \$10 per hour to \$150 per week.

The Studio's entrance is ideally situated - it opens right onto the Playbox's new cafe in the Malthouse Theatre.

## Support for Artists

A Visual Artists' Support Group has been established by the Community Linking Project. The group aims to help visual artists develop their art skills, enjoy arts activities and improve their ability to interact with other people. The group has met twice and plans further meetings before the end of the year.

"In the first meeting we discussed ideas for activities," says project co-ordinator Heather Graham. "Everything from computer graphics workshops to running a collective. The second event was a gallery crawl around Brunswick and Gertrude Streets in Fitzroy, followed by a cappuccino and a chat."

Events planned for the next few months include a life drawing workshop and an artist/speaker event. For more information contact Heather Graham.

## ARTS ACCESS

Arts Access is a non-profit organisation committed to creating opportunities in the arts with people with disabilities or who are disadvantaged.

Act/Executive Director: Judith Isherwood  
Act/Artistic Director: Ray Richards  
Artistic Project Officer: Noelle Curry  
EASE Project Officer: Julie-ann Willems  
EASE Bookings Assistant: Lisa McKoy  
Office Administrator: Rhona Bester  
Office Assistant: Samantha Marsh  
EASE Volunteers: Barbara Kitchen  
John Pidd

Have you considered becoming a member of Arts Access? Join now and you will help us reach more people with more programmes.

Memberships range from \$15 for concessional membership, \$30 for single membership to \$50 for organisational membership and is tax deductible.

Members are kept up to date with the year's activities through the quarterly newsletter 'Access'. Members receive discounts on all Arts Access publications and are invited to participate by attending those programmes that culminate in public performance or exhibition.

For more information, contact

**Arts Access**  
**109-111 Sturt Street**  
**SOUTH MELBOURNE, 3205**  
**Phone: 699 8299**  
**Fax: 685 5112**

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

## Prahran City Mission

### Art and Craft Exhibition

The Prahran City Mission is holding an arts and crafts exhibition at 211 Chapel Street between 21st October and 3rd November. The works are by participants in the Mission's Psycho-social Rehabilitation Programme. To find out more, phone Prahran Mission on 521 2711.

## Artist to Artist

During October, Arts Access will be running information sharing sessions for community artists. You can learn about work practices, activity ideas and resource finding.

A session for visual artists is being held at the Arts Access Studio on 17th October, from 12.30pm - 4.30 pm. A session for performing artists will be held on 24th October - same place and time.

You must register for these sessions by 10th October. Contact Heather Graham for more information.

## ARTS ACCESS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Publication No. VAW7218

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