



Beyond the Surface

Fri 12 April - Thur 25 April
Launch: Friday 12 April at 1.45 pm
Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre
2 Newham Way, Altona Meadows

An exhibition of artworks by participants of Visual Arts Together,
a social inclusion visual arts program for older Hobsons Bay residents.

Please RSVP to visualartstogether@gmail.com

Proudly supported by Hobsons Bay City Council Community Grants Program,
Hobsons Bay Community Fund Grant and the Walker Close Brooklyn Hall Association



Beyond the Surface

Exhibition Catalogue

Alma

Aged 85 years



Developing an awareness of shapes and colours is a wondrous thing. Engrossed, it took me into another world: I ended up studying every shape in my backyard. I am having fun and now trying to expand myself by putting away half an hour a day for sketching.

I am appreciative of the connection I have made with others in the group which availed me of a lift to a and from the library, which otherwise, would have been difficult – especially on the hot summer days.

no.1

Parrot

Coloured pencil on paper

no.3

Study of tonal value

coloured pencil on paper

no.16

Untitled (work in progress)

Watercolour on canvas

no.21

Zen

Collage on paper

Garry

Aged 61 years



The opportunity to explore and try out different techniques under guidance was worthwhile for me and I appreciated the opportunity to explore the use and effect of different mediums.

no.5

Still life study of everyday objects in watercolour

Watercolour on paper

no.15

Raffy

Acrylic on canvas

no.19

Still Life study of everyday objects

Pencil on paper

no.22

Still Life study experimenting with perspective

Collage on paper

Hugh

Aged 78 years



I am currently struggling to learn how to play the Ukulele. I figured if I was kind to it and made it the star of my works of art it would help me in return!

I swim most days at Altona and over the years have witnessed the demise of the simple beach house; replaced by soulless monsters. 'Holding my ground' is my response to this change, using colour and shape to symbolically interpret what I see.

no.9

Holding My Ground

Mixed media collage on paper

no.10

Ukulele, observational drawing

Watercolour on paper

no.11

Holding My Ground (work in progress)

Watercolour, ink on canvas

no.12

My Friend the Ukulele, observational drawing

Pencil on paper

Robyn

Aged 59 years



Prior to participating in this art program, I hadn't drawn or painted since completing school in the mid-70s. Occasionally I've thought I'd like to try but considered myself too much of a novice to attend art classes. Other participants encouraged me to attend this program; I'm pleased I did.

I gained significant knowledge and skills about where to find inspiration as well as the opportunity to see the world from an artistic perspective by looking at shapes, shadows, light and perspective. The artists facilitating the classes gently guided my artistic development by suggesting and demonstrating various brushes, types of paints and techniques to create different effects.

I developed a greater appreciation of how difficult it is to create various painting styles but the confidence and interest to independently continue to draw and paint.

no.4

Purple Cabbage

Mixed media on paper

no.8

Untitled, observational drawing

Grey lead pencil on paper

no.14

Serenity (work in progress)

Watercolour, ink, oil pastel on canvas

no.20

Study for 'Serenity'

Exploration of media and technique

Samantha

Aged 48 years



I found out about the art classes initially on social media. I follow the Anxiety Disorders Association of Victoria page on Facebook.

Scenes in nature have always been appealing to me – sunrise and sunsets, trees and lakes. Coincidentally prior to class I had found this video of the milky way on the Mullinger Swamp on the South Australian/Victorian border...I love the formation of the constellation in the clouds and the ominous appearance of the trees in the dark with the calm of the water beneath. It reminds me of how painting helps me find the calm beneath the storm of my anxiety.

One of the best things about coming to Visual Arts Together has been participating in a creative process, and experiencing the peace I felt in being 'present in the moment. This program assisted in affirming a sense of self and building confidence in myself.

I am proud of what I was able to achieve and am inspired with new ideas for future projects.

no.7

Succulent Flow

mixed media collage on paper

no.17

Calm Beneath the Storm (work in progress)

Watercolour, acrylic on canvas

Sandy

Aged 63 years



Our main objective in attending the program was to meet locals and create/ extend social networks as new arrivals in the area. We got to know one of our neighbours and extend acquaintances from other activities.

It introduced us to this outlet of the Hobson's Bay Library which we hadn't visited before. We met and travelled to / from later sessions with Alma who is in our neighbourhood. Hugh is a wealth of information about activities at the Laverton Hub and it was good to spend some time with Robyn outside our normal shared interest (music). We also took the opportunity to have a good look around the shopping centre at Central Square to extend our shopping options.

We'll both pursue painting to extend our social network and seek to develop skills in this challenging activity.

- no.6 ***The Table is Ready***
Wax crayon on paper
- no.13 ***Gambling with Emotions***
Acrylic on canvas
- no.18 ***A Gay Time at the Party***
Collage on paper

**Practical Placement
Students of Cert III.
Individual Support, LCEC**

- no.2 ***Maria: Still Life, observational drawing***
Watercolour, ink, pencil on paper
- no.23 ***Maria: Still Life***
Ink on paper
- no.24 ***Michelle: Study of tonal value***
Pencil on paper
- no.25 ***Leap: Upside Down Drawing*** (a 'Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain' activity)
Pencil on paper
- no.26 ***Emma: Still Life***
Collage on paper
- no.27 ***Debra: Still life, observational drawing***
Pencil on paper
- no.28 ***Janet: Plant Dreaming***
Acrylic on paper
- no.29 ***Sonia: Untitled***
Coloured pencil on paper

Student Reflection: How has your participation in Visual Arts Together confirmed or challenged your personal values and beliefs about what older people want, and can do?

I can describe it as a generational shock to me (and I am not sure if it is a Cultural shock too) since as a child I was taught that I must do everything possible to help elderlies because they are too tired to do things by themselves so I tended to do tasks for them and that they just need to be in bed, resting, without ever having to go outside because they are too fragile and can get sick, and now I know that it is better to do things with them, encouraging them to be active, and taking part in social activities to help them feel more capable, important and valuable. Sonia

La PasseggARTa acknowledges the kind support and funding received from the Hobsons Bay Community Fund, the Hobsons Bay City Council Community Grants Program and the Walker Close Brooklyn Hall Association.

