

ACCESS ARTS LINK

2006 - Current



Project Description

Under the banner of Interweave Arts Association, the Access Arts Link promotes innovation, excellence and participation in the arts by people with a disability. This program has helped open doors and ensures a dynamic, accessible environment where all can participate, experience and enjoy art.

Host Organisation

Interweave Arts Association with support (both in-kind and \$ funding) from TAFE Tasmania and the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery.

Funding sources

Tasmanian Community Fund
WD Booth Charitable Trust
Fosters Group
Regional Arts Fund
Australia Council for the Arts
Festivals Australia
Launceston City Council

Outcomes

Over 30 exhibitions at various venues
State and Interstate Arts Bus tours
Ongoing program

Project workers

Kim Schneiders (Interweave Arts)
James Newton (Disability Liaison Officer, TAFE Tas)

Keywords

Visual Art, Launceston, Disability

Project Contact

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Highlights

For its efforts to date, the Access Arts Link program has successfully attained numerous local awards including: TAFE Tas 2007 Equity Award and Launceston Examiner's 2008 Smart Communities Award.

In addition Access Arts Link offers Art Programs designed specifically for children of all ages with additional needs to develop and practice social and emotional regulating skills, for which it won the 2008 Autism Tas Alex Walley Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution.

Access Arts Link is Tasmania's leading arts and enterprise program for people with disabilities. Since 2006 the program has been promoting equality of access to the arts by supporting people of differing abilities to take part in innovative visual arts projects.

The Access Arts Links program works with adults and children with disabilities and others who find it difficult to access mainstream activities.

Through developmental workshops and exhibition programs we aim to: provide a platform to showcase the talents and achievements of emerging artists contribute towards creating a more equitable society.

The Access Arts Link grew out of a six-month project established by TAFE Tasmania in partnership with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery (QVMAG), becoming a core program of the Interweave Arts Association in 2007.

The program offers studio-based workshops and master-classes facilitated by practicing artists who mentor artists experiencing a range of physical, sensory, neurological, mental health, medical and intellectual disabilities to further their technical skills and artistic practice. The program includes public exhibition opportunities that exhibit and promote the work of the participating artists locally, nationally and internationally.

Since July 2006, the program has assisted artists to embark on over 30 exhibitions including at private galleries, the UTAS Academy of the Arts, public presentations and art house exhibition spaces, the Sydney Opera House, the Henry Jones Art Hotel, the Adelaide Fringe Festival, Brisbane's Metro Arts Gallery, and Awakenings, Australia's only regional disability arts festival.

The Access Arts Link also aims to proactively recruit and employ skilled administrators, arts workers and volunteers experiencing a range of disabilities, and develop local, regional and national partnerships.

Queen of Tasmania Arts Bus

30 August - 19 Dec 2008

The previous Pulp Mill Promotion Bus was transformed by Access Arts Link program artists into the Queen of Tasmania for touring to Horsham, Victoria during October 2008 where it was embraced within the Awakenings festival program as a mobile exhibition and workshop space. The bus visited schools and disability organisations and Access Arts Link artists, Ross Byers and Matt Viney delivered visual art workshops where participants produced work to apply to the bus exterior.

Crew from the Access Arts Link also attended the festival, using the painted bus as a backdrop for their puppet performance "Shine!" In addition, the bus interior was transformed into an accessible Media Lounge that acted as a mobile exhibition space throughout the festival, showcasing films and cultural bytes created by Tasmanian artists from other Interweave Programs. In November and December 2008, the bus toured around various locations in Tasmania to provide visual art workshops and present puppet shows to a range of community groups.

"Queen of Tasmania Arts Bus" was presented with the Launceston City Council Creativity & Craftsmanship Award for featuring in the end of 2008 Launceston Christmas Parade. Artists involved are: Kim Schneiders, James Newton, Ross Byers, Jay Watson, Matt Viney, Jacqui Taylor, Jude Walsh, Graham McKenzie

Support for this project primarily came from the Australia Council for the Arts and Festivals Australia, in addition to the Interweave Arts Association, Regional Arts Fund, the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery and Launceston City Council, the Tasmanian Community Fund, Fosters Group and WD Booth Estate.



The Body as a Canvas 2009 – 2010 Calendar

During 2008, local Launceston artist Gail Bickers produced a collection of Body Art images by consulting with the crew of artists from the Access Arts Link program. Interviewing them individually, she created a concept to perform a wearable art piece for them to model and then photograph. Intricately layering fluorescent paints, designing and cutting stencils Gail achieved a luminous effect on their bodies. Local young designer Gemina Bastick was employed to design a 16 month calendar with the images created. The calendar is not only useful, but also an inspiring artwork itself.

"The Body as a Canvas" calendar is available for sale for \$10 (proceeds go directly back into the Access Arts Link program) through contacting the Studio on (03) 6323 3789.



Images

Top: Louisa Jones with her puppet in front of the bus
Photographer: Kim Schneiders

Above: The Body as a Canvas Calendar (Cover Detail)