



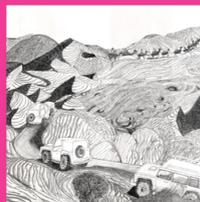
ArtWorks  
Together



2021

International  
Arts Competition

For Artists with Learning Disabilities and Autism





# ArtWorks Together

## 2021

ArtWorks Together is a new international arts competition which celebrates the work of artists with learning disabilities, autism or both. The exhibition showcases the work of 34 artists with learning disabilities, autism or both from 13 different countries.

The works range from film to printmaking, sculpture to painting.

Disabled people are under-represented within the arts and cultural sector in all areas and ArtWorks Together aims to change this and celebrate the creativity of the artists involved.



# About ArtWorks

Artworks is a not for profit creative arts organisation, inspiring and helping artists with learning disabilities and autism to achieve their potential and develop important life skills through creative workshops and placements.

We support our artists to develop their individual practices, support their professional growth as artists and participate in work placements within the creative industries.

We focus on achievement, self-belief, collaborative practice and teamwork, whilst supporting our artists to play an active role within their community. ArtWorks aim to challenge people's perceptions of intellectual disabilities through celebrating the creativity and ambition of our artists.



An abstract painting featuring a complex composition of colors and textures. The upper right quadrant is dominated by warm tones of orange and yellow, with visible brushstrokes and some darker, charcoal-like lines. The lower left and central areas are characterized by a deep teal or blue-green hue, interspersed with grey and white tones. A prominent, dark, wavy line, possibly representing a branch or a path, winds through the center of the composition. The overall effect is one of dynamic energy and layered depth.

# Exhibiting Artists



## **15 Days in Clay**

The Gathering  
Sculpture

# 15 Days in Clay

## England

15 Days of Clay is a group of artists bonded by kinship, with a sense of creativity at its heart. Our purpose has always been to champion ability over any perceived disability. There is beauty in difference if you remove judgment. Our clay community has created its own collective purpose, generated genuine friendships and has nurtured an environment that has empowered countless individuals.

The Gathering, started with 'What Does 15 Days In Clay Mean to You?' Recurring themes emerged in the responses: collective strength, unity, creativity and biscuits! The work needed to create a sense of presence, stature and an interaction. There needed to be uniformity with the overall form, but also individuality expressed through the choices of each artist. The original question was just a guide. The component parts were to be given their own life. Each part was worked on separately. There was great trust given to the process resulting in serendipity, meaning happy accidents.



**Wendy Belcher of the  
Shadowlight Artists**

Things that annoy me  
Film

# Wendy Belcher

of the

# Shadowlight Artists

## England

Animated/live-action documentary - created for Shadowlight Artists LUMINOUS exhibition. Funny and irreverent Wendy's film explores all the things that really annoy her from smelly dogs, to inconsiderate people, and to dirty toilets.



**Anya Bliss**

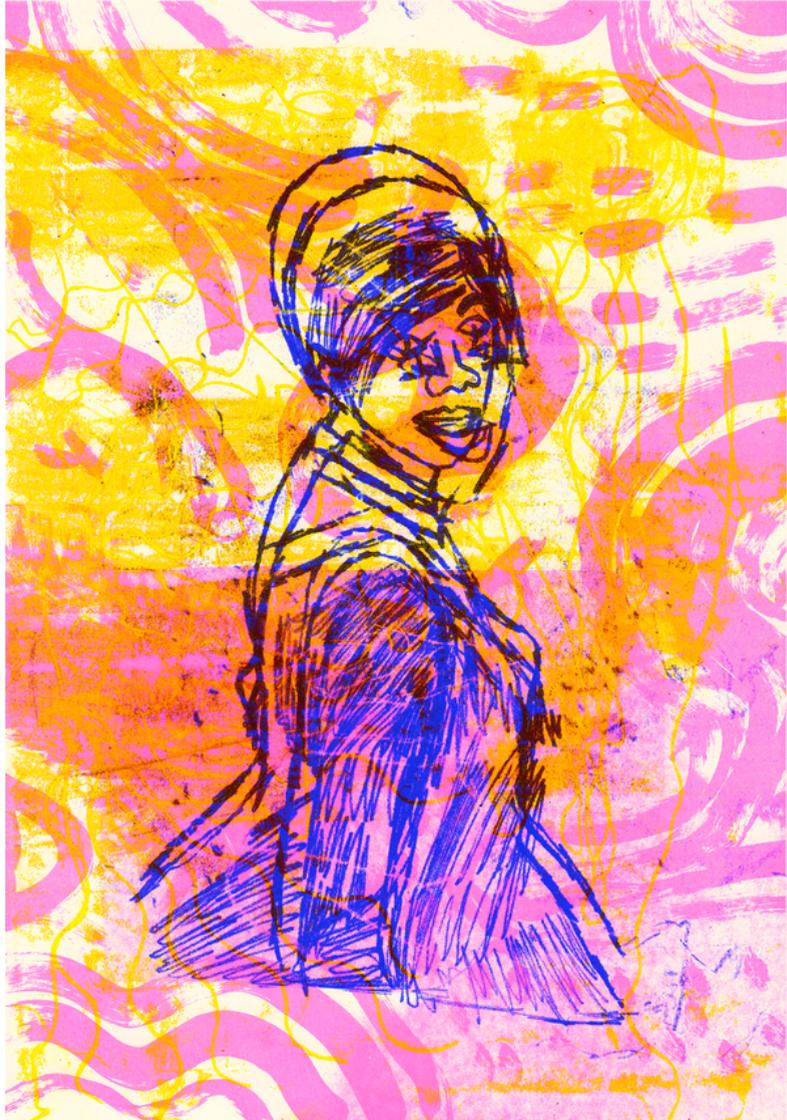
The Most Dangerous Man Alive

Textiles

# Anya Bliss

## England

'The Most Dangerous Man Alive' (2020) is a 600cm by 300cm textile-based wall hanging/ tapestry. The background consists of a green and brown, screen-printed repeat pattern of the angry faces of Boris Johnson, Vladimir Putin, and Donald Trump. The entire piece is bordered by a simple red and yellow repeat pattern. In the centre, there is a rainbow circle, representing the universally acknowledged LGBTQ flag, featuring embroidered drawings of historically important, deceased, LGBTQ identifying figures. This includes Audre Lorde, Marsha P. Johnson, Dame Ethel Smyth, Frida Kahlo, Leigh Bowery, Magnus Hirschfeld, and Alan Turing.



# Hisba Brimah

## England

Hisba's work references architecture, art history, textiles, and different cultures, and ranges stylistically from colourful, geometric abstracts to fluid figuration. This piece is a mono print utilising a few different methods - firstly, layers of abstract collage assembled on a risograph printer, and secondly, a figure drawing achieved by using transfer printing methods.

### **Hisba Brimah**

Other

Monoprint



COWBOYS  
Don't  
Paint.

*It is presumptuous to try to paint with poor materials.*

# John Buice

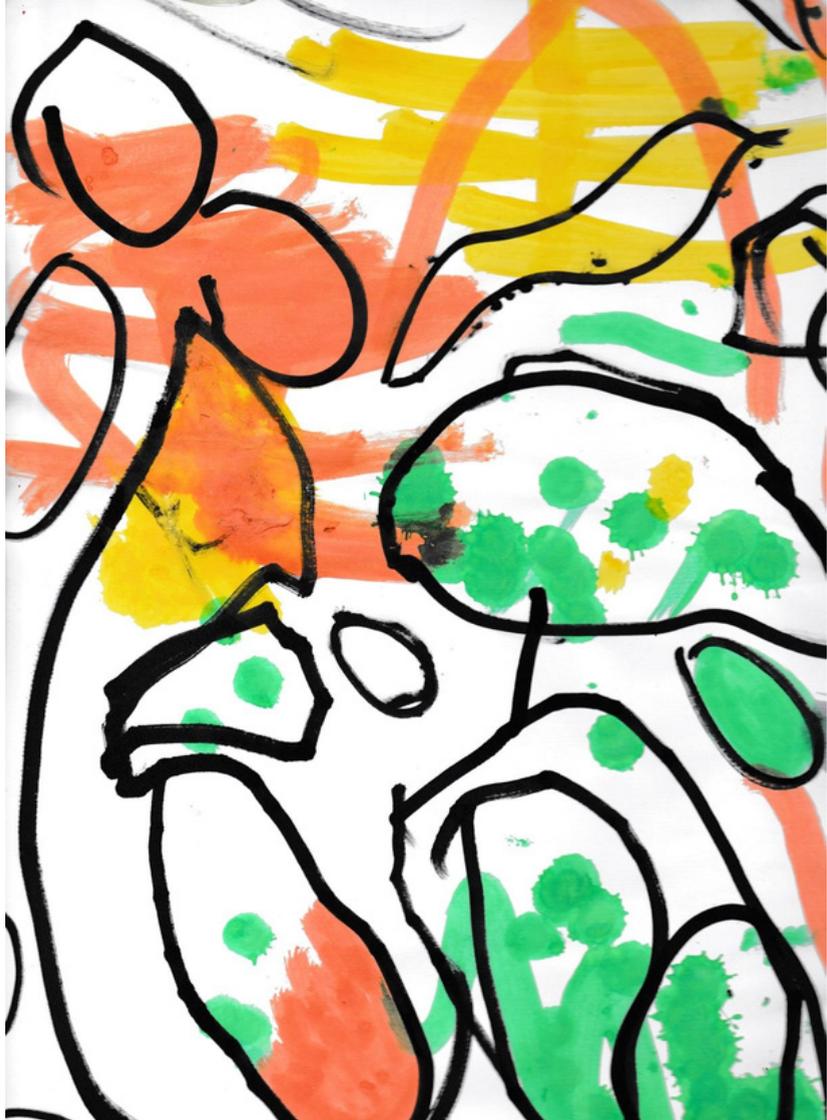
## USA

Johnny is a story-teller at heart. Shortly after starting at the studio, John's work began to encompass personal ideas and opinions, touching on his feelings about religion, geography, and politics. His work is highly influenced by his personal experience of historical events and pop culture high points from the 60's through the 80's. Working primarily through collage or map-making, he uses these references to make poignant and often hilarious statements about the world in which we exist.

### **John Buice**

Cowboys don't paint

Digital Print



# Asa Caine Williams

## England

Asa works using new 'out of the box' techniques rather than using conventional methods to create his bold pieces of work. Asa has lots of energy which shows throughout his work, and works quickly, using bingo dabbers and permanent markers to make his drawings.

### **Asa Caine Williams**

Untitled

Painting



# Simone Cassese

## Italy

In his watercolours, Simone Cassese combines human faces with geometric shapes and lines, creating an enchanted and dreamlike effect. In this face, the soft colours of the background contrast strongly with the bright and plump red lips, while the body is almost uncoloured. If the head seems to bend in greeting, the affectionate look suggests an amused, funny, smiling, empathic approach, pointing out at the same time, together with the red lips, a desire to express, a communicative request, generating a contrast.

### **Simone Cassese**

Face

Watercolour Illustration



**Julie Coulter-English**

Mother and Daughter Triptych

Acrylic

# Julie Coulter-English

## Canada

The portraits painted in acrylics form a triptych of a woman with undiagnosed autism struggling under the weight of motherhood and who was determined to love and respect the new life she holds in her arms. The portrait of me and my youngest daughter (who was diagnosed with ASD in her 20s) was clearly my darkest time. I didn't understand why I wasn't able to be a mother like all the other mothers I saw around me. I felt something was wrong with me. I painted to get the negative thoughts out of my mind. Fast forward to now: I was diagnosed with ASD almost 3 years ago when I was 64. My daughters and I enjoy loving and close relationships and they tell me they I have been a wonderful mother to them.



# Ahmad Danial

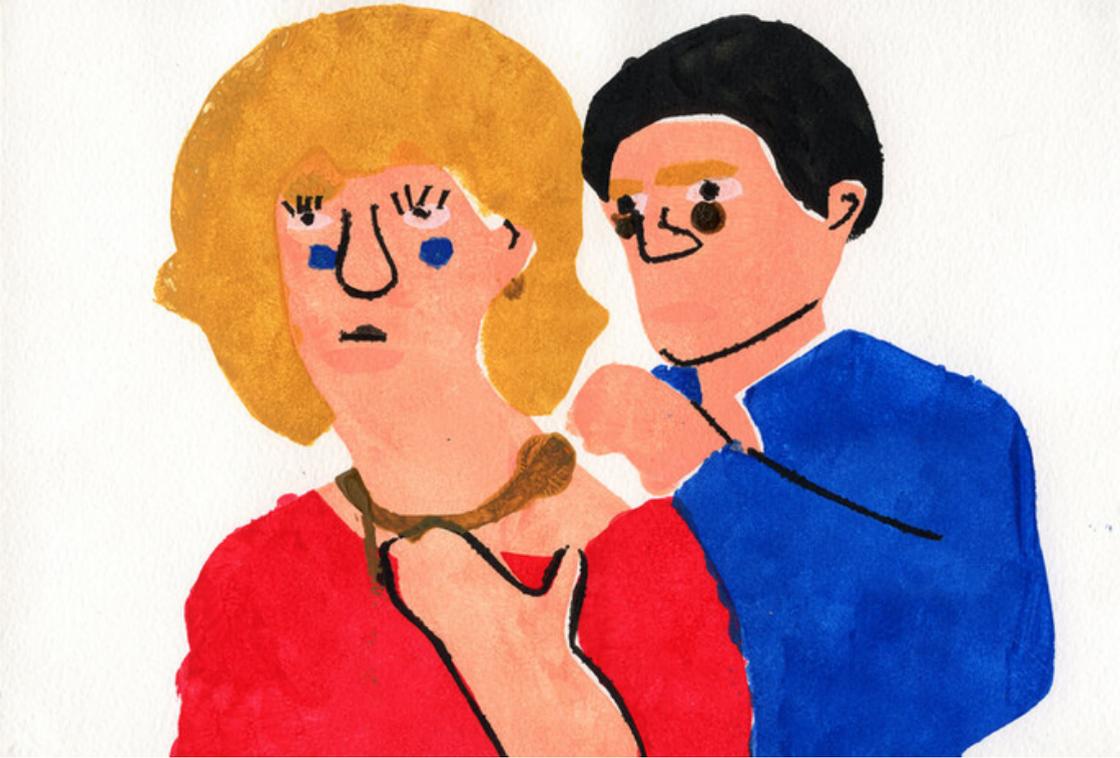
## Malaysia

The artwork represents the hardship of kampong women in Malaysia. They are stronger when working together.

**Ahmad Danial**

Three Women Carrying Baskets

Painting



**Amy Ellison**

Audrey Roberts and Lewis

Acrylic

# Amy Ellison

## England

I made lots of portraits using stencil printing, I did it on my zoom lesson at home with Jacenta from Venture Arts. They are some of my favourite Coronation street characters. This one is of Audrey Roberts and Lewis.



# Dubrovskaya Evgeniya Vladimirovna

**Russia**

The table is made in the technique of traditional Boretsky painting. I used tempera paints, art brushes, parchment paper and black pencil. I took the drawing for my work from the archive of Vologda artists. The work took 18 months to create.

**Dubrovskaya Evgeniya Vladimirovna**

Spring Meadow

Painting on tea table



STEVIE THE WONDER CHICKEN AND HIS  
FEET OF FLAMES!

Weather G. 7/8/2020

# Heather Gilligan

## England

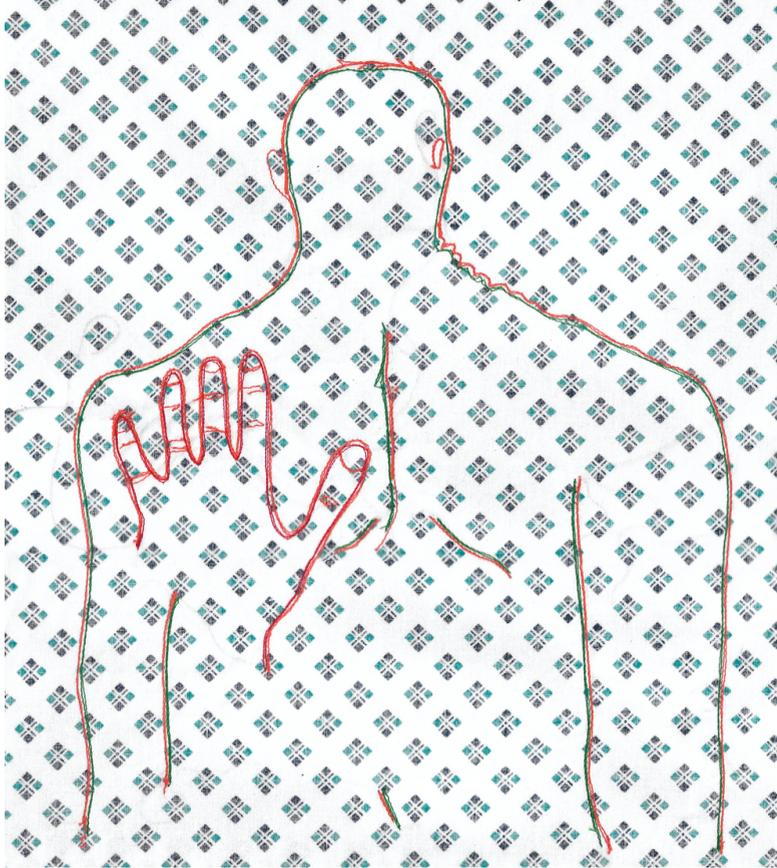
A piece of pen and coloured pencils that I did for art therapy and was particularly pleased with. It was based on a photo I took of a prize-winning cockerel at a local county fair. I had tried to do a serious drawing of a couple of years ago, but this quick-draw character piece worked out a lot better.

I have a vision disorder called Irlen's Syndrome that means all my vision is distorted, but becomes less distorted as it comes toward the centre of my view. It means that I can't draw in the academically 'correct' way, but have to navigate from one completed feature to the next line by line rather than creating a generalized view and then fleshing it out from all sides. I also have ADHD so everything is a race against time. I like that it makes people smile or laugh, and people have really noticed it and it has staying power. This is how I judge what's good.

### **Heather Gilligan**

Stevie the Wonder Chicken

Drawing



**Jack Haslam**

Waiting Games

Embroidery on a piece of hospital gown

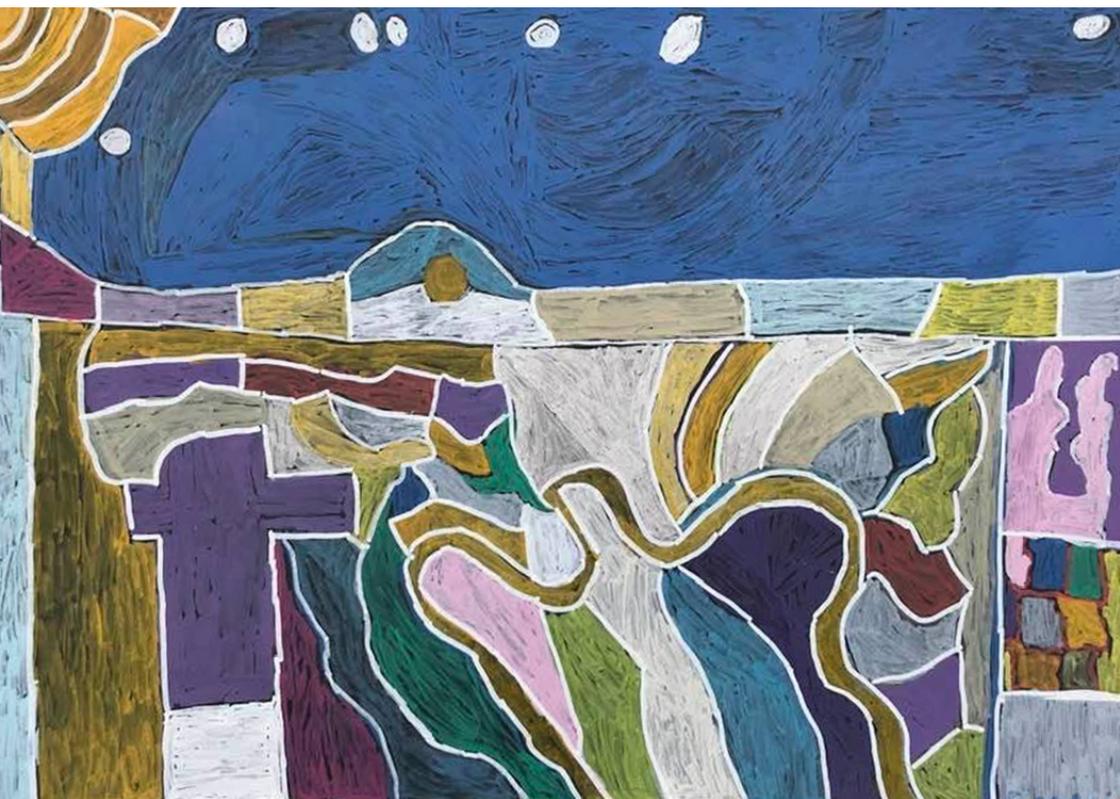
# Jack Haslam

## England

I am an artist and printmaker living in central London. I have exhibited in many shows over the past few years. I have been nominated for Wildlife Artist of the Year many times. I have also exhibited regularly in the Mall Gallery, Shape Arts, The Royal Watercolour Society and I had my first one man show in 2019 at The Attenborough Arts Centre in Leicester.

My work is about my thoughts about my mental health problems, my struggles with relationships with friends, family and my mother, and also my medication. I use embroidery in some of my work, also silk screen and aquatint. This is a machine embroidery about waiting for results from the hospital, and the frustration and worry people go through not associated with the pandemic, but how it affects people with serious illness.

I used a hospital gown as a base for this embroidery, the red cotton thread representing the blood tests and the reassuring hand guiding the patient forwards. The person has their face turned away representing everyone who has been in the terrifying situation, and the extra delays in trying to get a diagnosis at this time of Covid-19. It was inspired by family who have been treated for cancer in the past.



# Gethin House

## Wales

Inspired by Van Gogh's painting of the same name, this is an abstract landscape, painted with acrylic paint pens on coloured card.

### **Gethin House**

Starry Night

Acrylic paint pens on card



# David James

## England

David James is a multidisciplinary artist. Much of his work is inspired by textures, as is this piece.

### **David James**

Textures in Gold

Mixed media



# Eliot Lord

## England

A drawing based on the departure of Boris Johnson's chief advisor Dominic Cummings, documenting a lighter part of the government's shambolic handling of the Coronavirus crisis. Made using felt-tip pens, chalk pastels, oil pastels and black indian ink.

### **Eliot Lord**

Cummings and Goings

Illustration



# David Minto

## England

I love Hip Hop and rap music, I started painting all my favourite artists. This is one that I feel is one of my best.

**David Minto**

Run DMC Painting

Painting



**Thomas Miles**  
Masking: Conflict  
Photography

# Thomas Miles

## England

I find that we must reflect on the good and the bad that comes with autism. My experiences vary: I can be so happy and joyous that I will stim (reactions/movements that autistic people may do when there's a sensory overload or an overwhelming sense of joy or stress). But then I can also feel very low and drained, this can be due to masking for a lengthy period of time; long social interactions and intense 1-1 situations- often with strangers.

These opposite sides of the masking spectrum can be very varying and inconsistent. Now that I am aware of masking and how it is something I do, I worry about the implications from this; how will it affect me as I grow further into adulthood: building my own family and my business. Will I be happy, healthy and me?

This photo is a portrayal of the conflict that comes with masking. How it feels to be in the centre of masking, particularly for a long period of time. You feel yourself doing whatever you can to successfully mask, to hide any autistic traits that people might judge. I often feel exposed when trying to mask, like I can't hide and am a witness to my own insecurities.

This is apart of a series of self portraits I took, to show the process of masking in my life. One of my biggest passions in my work is to talk about my autism and help educate people on its impact in my life and others.



# Blaine Morris

## USA

This is a collaborative painting between Passion Works Studio core artist Blaine Morris and staff artist Mallory Valentour.

### **Blaine Morris**

A Whale of a Good Time

Photography



# Siddarth Muraly Nair

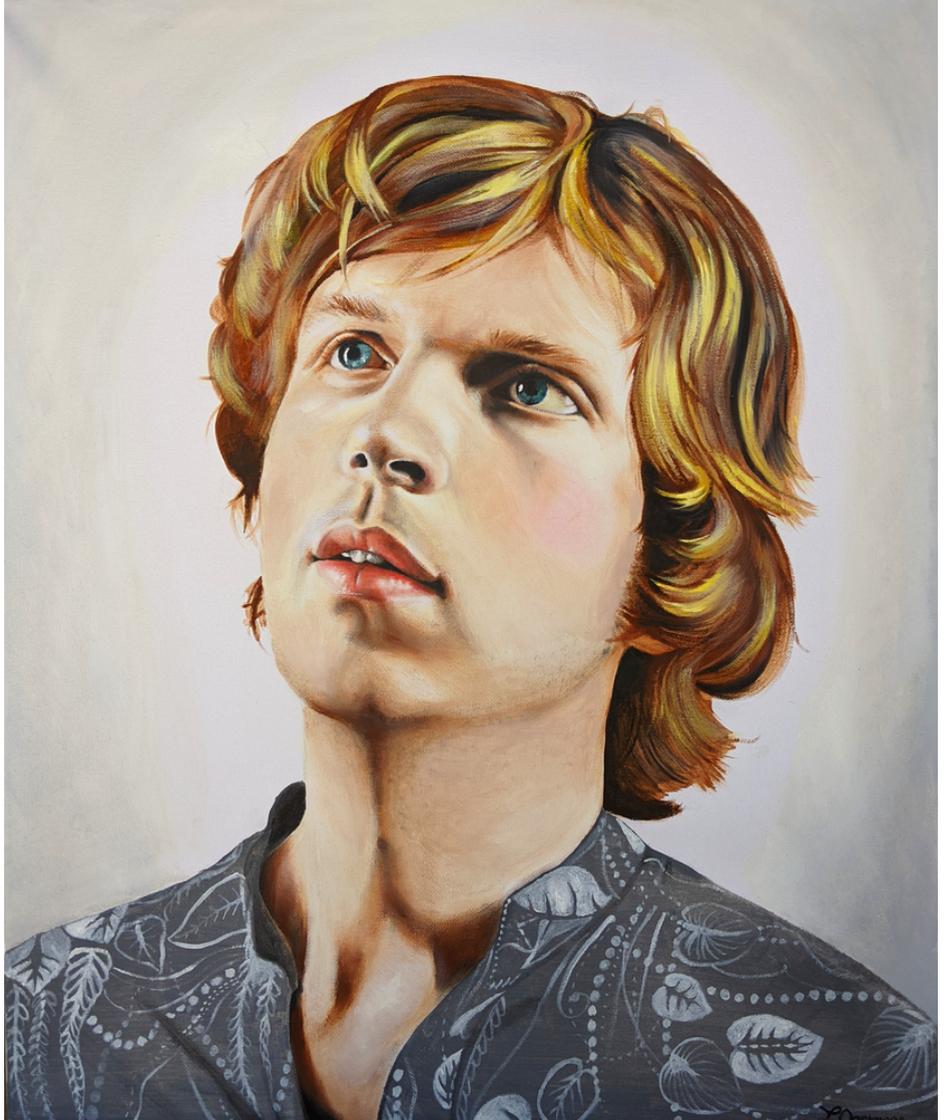
## India

I am a 19 year old from India. The drawing *The Desert Safari* is the observations I made while I travelled in 2018 to middle east, Dubai. I tried to depict the whirling sand dunes with lines and dots and also the cruise in the four wheel drive, which I watched while sitting there. I could also see the short desert shrubs and a far away camel caravan. The work was done with microfiber ink pen on an imperial sheet of ivory paper.

**Siddarth Muraly Nair**

The Desert Safari

Drawing



# Laura Oestmann

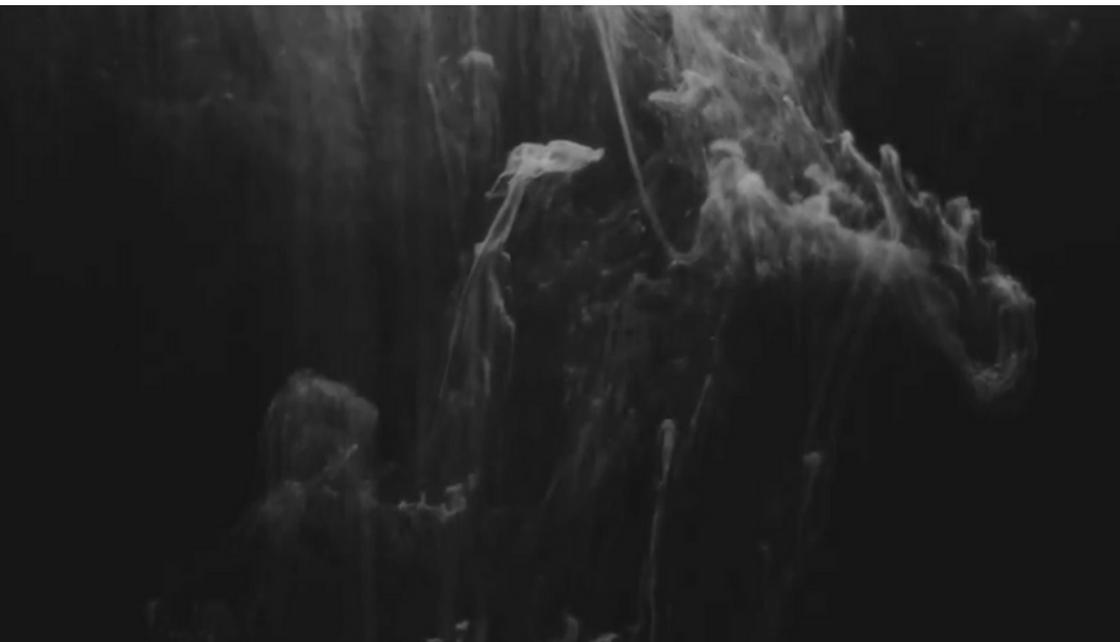
## Australia

This is an oil painting on canvas I completed in 2018 of the musical artist Beck Hansen. I absolutely adored his music, and admired him as an artist, so I painted a portrait of him using a reference photo I found on the internet. It took approximately a month to complete. I still enjoy his music today.

**Laura Oestmann**

Bec

Oil Painting



**Elinor Rowlands**

Teapot (Grief)

Video Installation

# Elinor Rowlands

## England

Teapot (Grief) is a visual sound piece rendered by the teapot's history and story. A feminine ritual where our grief lives in the steam. An autistic artist possesses qualities of "human" that are so often alien to mainstream society. Taking a planetary experience of relationships we can express relating to each other in a space to grieve. In an act of gathering, during the Covid-19 pandemic & climate emergency, by relating and responding together in an ecological state of being, we can mobilise and be effective within our social movements as artists, musicians, audience members and makers, to recognise that this is the act of mourning during turbulent times. As Judith Butler explains, "to embrace in gathering is to go on and survive the loss."

Film is a mode for thinking and visual elements are the way I make physical compositions to show sound. The film as installation would have the sound poured out from a loudspeaker or in a space that allows the sound to spin around in the same way the steam (smoke) does. As an autistic artist, I think and compose and create visually and I sculpt from images, my synesthesia also impacts on the way I make.



# Gabriel Salvador

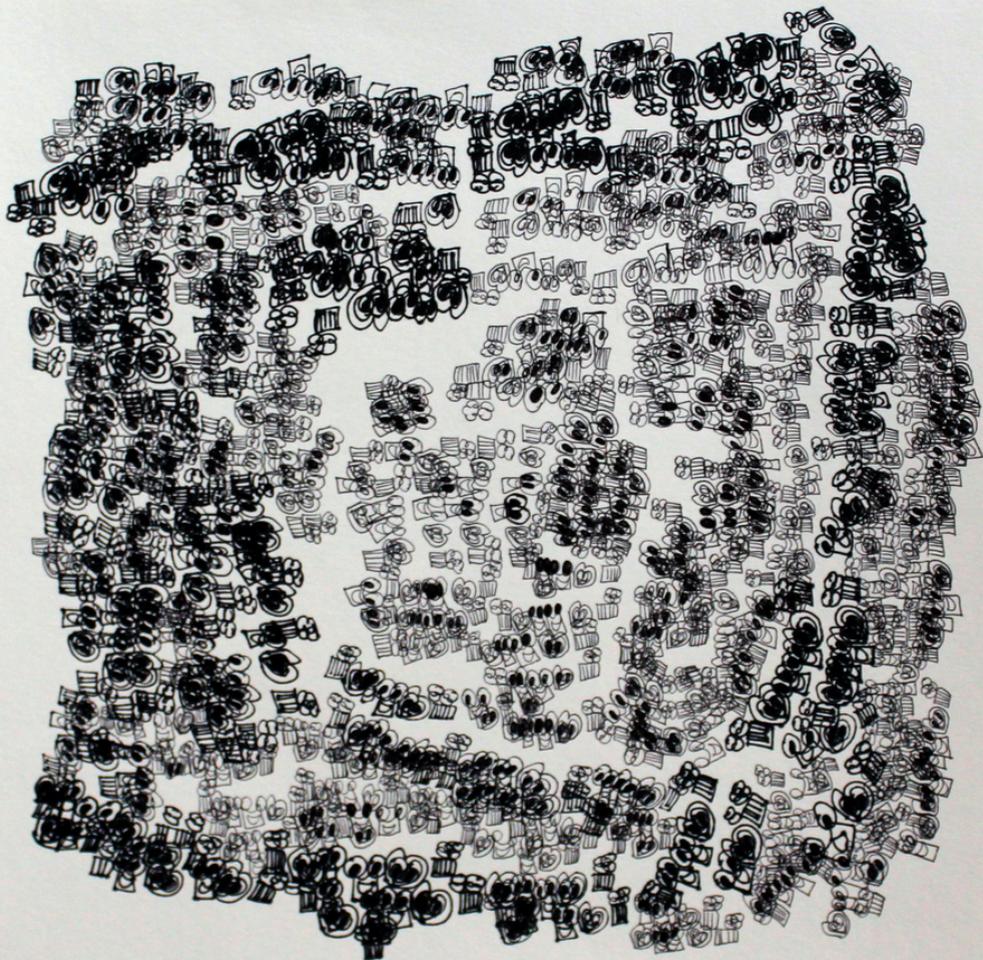
## Portugal

Gabriel painted this picture, on canvas, using acrylics. When he was painting, he was so connected with the succulent and rich brush strokes. He was so concentrated and delighted with the effect, textures and the sensation he was exploring; feeling from it...it was like he was having a conversation with it. He is so happy when he paints. It's like meditation.

**Gabriel Salvador**

Untitled

Acrylic on Canvas



# Rachel Schubkegel

## USA

Rachel's work could best be described as a symbolic language. Colourful words and images draw your attention as they overlap and move playfully on paper. The subject of Rachel's work centres around her favourite places and things. Whether it be repeated smiling bunnies, hot pink cheeseburgers, or a bundle of balloons, the result of these bright and simple patterns are somewhat reminiscent of a joyful cave painting.

### **Rachel Schubkegel**

Rachel's Favourite Things

Drawing



# Nicholas Selway

## England

I looked at myself in a photo to make this portrait. I really like my jumper in this, it's one of my favourites.

### **Nicholas Selway**

A portrait of me

Painting



# Kwaga Silingi

## England

Kwaga Silingi combines paper collage and acrylic to create bold, large-scale paintings, which repeatedly explore dense colour combinations and layouts of circular forms. Frequently working on multiple paintings at a time Kwaga has developed her own unique, systematic painting process. Working large scale Kwaga collages painted circles into ordered patterns, applies a background then each circle is individually crowned with its own coloured perimeter or loop. Over time the patterns laid down have shifted in style from tight order into looser, chunkier, diagonal formations with layer upon layer of thick painterly loops. Kwaga confidently and lovingly applies thick brush marks; revealing in the rich, bold colours, paint texture and the circular form.

### **Kwaga Silingi**

Circles

Painting



# James Shreeve

## England

As an autistic artist, I struggle with the notion of self and this work is my first self-portrait where I am exploring my identity, as well as my relationship to the environment. My mask has become the new comfort blanket, something to comfort me when outside and provide indirect support.

**James Shreeve**

Pandemic Self Portrait

Digital Drawing



**Stephanie Tam Zhu Shin**

Hope

Painting

# Stephanie Tam Zhu Shin

## Malaysia

When the lanterns are in full bloom. Inspired by the Mid-Autumn Festival, the artist uses abstract methods with various bird-shaped lanterns gracing and lighting up the sky. It also expresses hope, free-spirited and positive energy in bright colours. The lines in the painting represent our beliefs and bonding. As we are united and in solidarity, we can dispel darkness. Solidarity means strength – The world today is experiencing a pandemic that is oblivious to many things we humans hold dear to us: family, culture, economy, borders, and political systems. We are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity and creaturehood under one God. Thus, we are interrelated, interconnected, interdependent. The style and characteristic of this artist are to cover and express her story in layers to complete the artwork. This is the initial composition and creative inspiration stage of the artist and it's deemed as a finished painting by her.



## **Kota Urai**

My life unfolded, an origami story

Origami

# Kota Urai

## Japan

These are the patterns Kota made with origami. He folds a piece of origami in his own style, staples it, and cuts. He cuts freehand most of the time. He does all the process by himself. With a little imagination, you will find spiders and spiderwebs, dragons, dancing people, masks, and monsters. He chose the patterns he really liked and wanted people to see them all. Among all, dragon is his most favourite. He wants people to find their own way to see the pattern. Some people might find more dragons than the other in one sheet of origami.

Kota's first encounter with this technique, monkiri (which is one of the techniques to play with origami; originated in cutting the design of family crest) at his atelier at the age of 14. Since then monkiri became his favourite hobby. He enjoys the moment of unfolding the origami the most and creates new pieces every day. In a difficult time like this with Covid-19, he enjoys his time at home working with origami. His passion for origami made his works so original and unique. He had shown us the infinite possibility of what we can do with a piece of paper.



# Emily Uttley

## England

This image depicts a boy / young man, lying on his bed alone and in an awkward position, suffering from a wave of depression. It shows his complete surrender to battling it, yet the peacefulness of his pain. The boy is empty; no matter how much external vitality and vibrancy lives on, his illness renders him unresponsive and oblivious. He is suffering in a stunningly tranquil, and undisturbed way. We are reminded of the importance of comforting ourselves during our most private and painful moments.

### **Emily Uttley**

Sleeping Boy

Painting



# Derek Williams

## England

In the community where I live, we are very big on gatherings and parties, where we might be celebrating someone's birthday, wedding, achievements, or just celebrating good weather or holidays. I am a very social and sociable person, so being around others in this setting is important to me. I love to dance and play bongo drums at these celebrations and gatherings, too. This painting depicts such gatherings of people in community. People of lots of colours and creeds, enjoying life together.

**Derek Williams**

Gathering

Painting



# Clive Verrell Isatyawan

## Indonesia

Life is an option for everybody. To cope with "life" means we have to face for so many differences. Life is dynamic. We have to be wise. Adjust all the things in harmony. Not only among mankind, we also must consider other creatures. Let's live in harmony.

The painting was created during the coronavirus pandemic. The artist felt that living in harmony is one solution to have a better life for each of us. How we cope with the changes, how we appreciate the differences, how we adjust for good and we follow the dynamic of life. For a better life in the world.

### **Clive Verrell Isatyawan**

Living in Harmony

Painting



# Abel Young-Johakartono

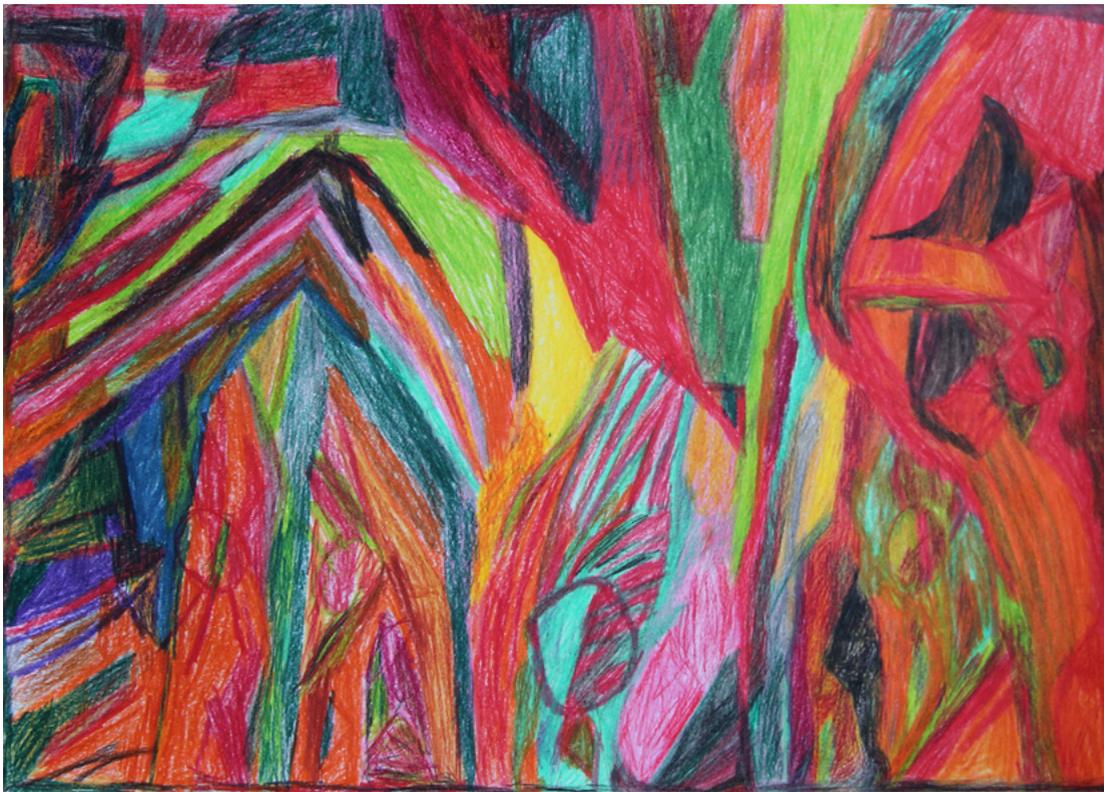
## Indonesia

This piece describes the spontaneous expression of natural life and the progress of times, going side by side.

**Abel Young-Johakartono,**

Expression of Life

Mixed media



Kristof Zana

Pencil on paper

# Kristof Zana

## Hungary

The Autistic Art Foundation in Hungary was founded in 2006 to bridge the world of autism with the mainstream society. Autistic Art has been running a special and unique art therapy programme since 2010 and we have discovered numerous talented artists with autism and took on the task of nurturing their talent as their representative.

Kristof Zana is 37 years old, and lives at our care home for young autistic adults in Miskolc. Kristóf Zana started drawing only six years ago. Until then, he only kept writing his name in the bottom corner of the paper for long minutes. That is why it was a surprise to everyone that once he started from the corner, from the contour of the letters, to the pictorial world resembling of the colour and shape diversity of a jungle. Kristóf creates his pictures by color patches; places flowers and sun on the paper among the color streams assigned to each other with supreme colour-sensitivity. Some of his drawings bear witness to the fact that Kristóf, unlike most people, sense the colour of shadows, just like a well-trained painter. The colour diversity revealing in his drawings, the cold and warm colours and the changes of shades speak of his reality, the way he senses the world in colour, shape and dynamics.



# Thanks

We want to say a huge thank you to our amazing staff team for their tireless work making this competition possible.

Thank you to all the artists, your work is just fabulous and we are honoured to be able to exhibit it.

Thank you to our incredible judges - Helen Pheby, Michael Morris, James Lingwood, Alison Lapper, Rachel Gadsden and Tony Heaton. We are so pleased to have your expertise in the judging process. And to our fabulous ArtWorks selection panel who selected the pieces exhibited, Asa Caine Williams, Phil Chapman, Charlene Chattoo, Lisa Fairchild and Hayden Holden.

Thank you to Wentworth Woodhouse for hosting the exhibition and for being so supportive.

# Thank You

to all our sponsors.





*"ArtWorks are so excited to be able to widen our support and appreciation of artists with learning disabilities autism or both to an international platform. We know that giving these artists a stage in showcase their fantastic work will support breaking down the barriers surrounding disabilities. We can't wait to share this incredible talent with the world."*

Kayleigh Cruickshank, ArtWorks Director



[www.artworkstogether.co.uk](http://www.artworkstogether.co.uk)