***Sustainable Art for a Sustainable Mind***

Youth Art Exhibition – KickstART Festival 2024
Propel Youth Arts WA x City of Melville

**About the Workshops with Neish**

The overall theme of this program of workshops is the therapeutic benefits of having an arts practice, and with this forming an accessible art practice relevant to each participant involved in the program.

**Workshop 1: Expressive Painting.**

Conceptual information: conversations about identity / disabilities. Working collaboratively on a big canvas all contribute marks and ideas, key words and symbols, conversations about how it is to be disabled. Lots of layers. Becomes abstract over time as people add layers. Things unique and specific to the person as well as relatable experiences. After lunch do smaller self-portrait creature paintings. Participants encouraged to take small canvases home and continue adding layers from home exploring different mark making options or resolve on the day.

* Finger painting and sauce bottle drip painting.
* Scribbling with wax crayons charcoal and chalks.
* Paint is recycled acrylic exterior paint (like the house paint in big tins).
* Paint has a moderate to pungent smell.
* There are face masks available.
* There is an odourless option paint available.
* Note that the room may smell strongly of paint but doors will remain open and fans for ventilation.
* And a desk may be set up on the patio outside.
* Different tools available to explore mark making.
* Don’t need to finger paint if not want to.
* Buckets of water for rinsing hands.
* Gloves available

Outcome: 1 collaborative big painting and a series of self-portraits, 1 per participant.

Participants are sent home with tub/container and encouraged to collect random bits and pieces throughout the week for the next workshop.

**Workshop 2: Trash Mosaic Making**Mosaicing is a tactile experience, using hands to arrange and glue. Can be a sensory challenge. Participants are supported to overcome / explore / come up with different systems to mosaic even with sensory challenges/ work collaboratively to strengths. Different options for gluing such as dipping or using a paintbrush and supports from neish and volunteers. Participants can arrange figuratively or abstract. Symbols or words or patterns. Colour relationships.

Outcome: everyone finishes with a 20x20 bathroom tile with trash mosaic and glued. (Grouting will occur in workshop 4). Participants will exhibit their mosaic tiles.

* Bits and pieces from their life (old sock, peg, rocks from garden , anything they can come up with relevant to them or found on the street).
* Neish will supply an assortment of tiles, smashed mirror, their junk collection.
* Workshop is arranging rubbish and gluing to tile with PVA glue.

**Workshop 3: Poetry, Performance & Music**

Conceptual information: identifying your own experience. Non-traditional poetry writing exercises in different modes of communication (ASL, PODD, written, interpretative body movements).

Objectives:

* Group poetry performances.
* Rhythm exercises.

Outcome: write poems and prepare a group performance for exhibition opening night. Public performance is optional. Can display poems or publish in the artist catalogue.

**Workshop 4: Artist Statements & Finishing Artworks**

* Resolving final artworks to be exhibited
* Grouting tiles from workshop 2 (mosaics)
* Creating artist statements
* Creating artwork titles