



Media release

27 May 2014

Artists with a disability shine in new exhibition

Visitors to Federation Square will have the opportunity to view several truly exceptional artworks this week as part of Able Australia's 8th annual *ableart* exhibition.

Entitled 'Not So Black and White', this year's exhibition features more than 100 works of art developed by people living with multiple disabilities, including deafblindness. The artworks have been created as part of Able Australia's art therapy program, *ableart*, which assists people with a disability to find new ways to express their emotions, explore their creativity and increase their confidence and self-esteem.

"This exhibition is a celebration of personal expression, communication and creativity," said Able Australia CEO, Kaye Collard.

"More than 50 artists took part in the program this year - watching them discover their own creativity and how to express themselves by putting paint to canvas has been a real joy. For the artists themselves, having their work displayed in a very public place like Federation Square is one of the highlights of the year."

"Significantly, this exhibition is a great opportunity for the wider community to see what can be achieved when people are supported and encouraged to pursue their life goals," she added.

Able Australia runs art therapy sessions through its major Melbourne locations, including Camberwell, Sydenham, Reservoir, Mitcham and Springvale. The ongoing success of the program has recently seen the *ableart* program extended to people Able Australia supports in Tasmania and Queensland.

This inspiring exhibition opens today and runs until Friday 30 May. All artworks will be on sale to the public, with proceeds going directly to the artists themselves.

WHAT: *ableart* exhibition
WHEN: Tuesday 27 May – Friday 30 May
WHERE: The Atrium, Federation Square

About Able Australia: Able Australia is a not-for-profit organisation providing services to people living with multiple disabilities, including deafblindness and in community programs throughout Victoria, Tasmania, ACT and Queensland. In Victoria, Able Australia supports 650 people across 15 sites in their efforts to be seen heard, respected, valued and connected.

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