

# Spark Studio News

September 2008

Greetings students, caregivers, family and friends

Another very productive term is coming to an end with **Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>** being the last day.

Sadly for two of our classes it is also the last day of the year as Language through Art and The Printed Image do not continue into term four. For the LTA and TPI students not attending any other class in term four there will be an opportunity to come to a new session on Friday mornings.

Individual letters will be sent out about this.

There has been an amazing progress in the development of art work coming out of the studio this year which demonstrates the benefits of the more in-depth art tuition the students have been exposed to.

Term four will be busy collating and preparing this work ready for exhibition at Corban's Estate – more about this below.

We were very sorry to farewell Gabriela during term three as she returned to her studies in New York. Gabriela contributed so much to Spark Studio and is missed by both students and staff.

Below are some examples of finished art work:



Mt Eden Prison  
by Bob Stephenson



Flowers in Ink  
by Hannah Campbell



Me at Long Bay  
by Antonia Nicoll

## Connecting with the Wider World

At the end of July a team from Spark (Suzanne, Amy, Sally and our intern Gabriela) attended the inaugural RiSE Symposium - Re-imaging Special Education through Arts Education and Arts Therapy.

This informative 3 day conference in Melbourne was extremely inspirational, and re-enforced the relevance of what we're doing here at Spark. Suzanne delivered an excellent presentation on our work, which show-cased the 3 pilot programmes we've recently undertaken and also discussed how the idea of "Creative Articulation" underpins our unique approach, fusing both arts education and arts therapy into a holistic model of creative self development. It was evident that we offer a very distinctive curriculum that differs from and complements other disability arts models, such as Arts Project Australia and Port Philip Special School (Melbourne). Important contacts were made with several international organisations, and we look forward to exchanging ideas and support in years to come. Several key initiatives from the conference have been channeled into our strategic plan, as we focus toward the next stage in our development.

Suzanne and Sally are also flying over to the upcoming Australian and New Zealand Arts Therapy Association (ANZATA) Symposium in Sydney, where they'll each be facilitating workshops and representing Spark Studio at the AGM. News from this event will be posted in our next newsletter.

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### **Funding News:**

Thanks go to **The Trusts Charitable Trust** for assistance with tutor salary funding and to the **Elsie Steele Trust** for providing us with quality art books for the library. Both grants were gratefully received.

## Dates to Remember

**End of Term Three: Last day – Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>**

All classes finish in the week ending September 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be a two week break with Tuesday classes starting again on October 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday classes on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be no Thursday sessions in term four. There will be a Friday morning session for those not attending any other classes.

**Start of term Four: First day – Tuesday October 14th**

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### About Anna

**Anna Rae**  
BVA

Anna has been working at Spark Studio for nearly two years. During this time she has been tutoring in the morning open sessions and this year has also been teaching printmaking techniques in the 'Language through Art' module and in 'The Printed Image' module. Last year Anna photographed, videoed and edited documentation of our teaching processes and of the students' processes throughout the 'Visual Art Focus Group' course.

Alongside Anna's work at Spark she teaches art to children, which she has done part-time for the last 5 years. In her own art work, she is currently working on a project inspired by her trip to the Franz Josef glacier in July. Here at Spark, Anna thoroughly enjoys everybody's creativity, talent and unique expression.

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Installation by **Athol Crosby**



'**Svasta od Svijeta**' (Everything You Wanted to See in the World) by **Vesna Tomic**

Many of our students showed work at the Telecom IHC Art Awards' Regional Finals at Sandz Gallery in Hamilton last month. **Athol Crosby** and **Bob Stephenson** sold works, while **Vesna Tomic** made it into the National Final Exhibition to be held at the New Dowse Gallery in Wellington. Another Spark student, **Paul McHardie**, also made it into the finals with a sculpture he created at W.O.W.. Paul and Vesna will be attending the opening night and auction on the 24<sup>th</sup> September and we wish them a wonderful time and our hearty congratulations on their achievements.

**Lizzie Collette** was also part of a recent group exhibition up in Waipu, and was very pleased to sell one of her lovely paintings.

### Corban's Estate Art Exhibition – and Published Work.

In term four Suzanne and the tutors will be busy collating the finished art work from the Language through Art and The Printed Image classes for the three week long exhibition at Corban's Estate in Henderson.

**The exhibition runs from November 20<sup>th</sup> to December 14th**

We will also be preparing a full colour book documenting the achievements of the LTA and TPI classes, sponsored by Tertiary Education Commission. The book will be available for purchase by the general public and will be a wonderful record of Spark Studios' artist's progress as they have developed their art making through the year.

The tutors will also be conducting a comparative study of all the TEC sponsored programmes as apart of our agreement with them.