

Spark Studio Newsletter September 2009



creative development
through visual arts

Dates to remember:

Term 3 finishes on **Friday 25 September**.

After a two week break **Term 4** classes start on **Monday 12 October**.

There will be no morning class on Friday 16 October as we will be preparing the studio for the open day (details below)

Term 4 is 10 weeks long and finishes on **18 December**.

Open Day

Spark Studio is opening its doors to friends, family and supporters on **Friday 16 October** from 3-6pm for our open day. Please come and join in the festivities and meet the Spark Studio artists and team. There will be an exhibition of our recent project work, wonderful art works for sale, food, drinks and entertainment. Please note we cannot accept eft-pos payments but will happily take cheques and cash! Do come along, we would love to see you there.

IHC Telecom Art Awards 2009

The 30 finalists have now been chosen and we are pleased and proud to announce that Spark Studio Artist Shannon Bowden's piece 'Broken Foot Slowly Getting Better' was one of those selected. The four winners will be announced on **Wednesday 23 September** in Wellington. Congratulations also to Joanna Lynskey (WOW) for Ginger the Garden Cat also getting into the finals.



Broken Foot Slowly Getting Better – Shannon Bowden

New Equipment

Funding from Skycity Auckland Community Trust has enabled us to buy a really good quality printing press. We are very excited as it will give us the ability to make some really high quality prints of students' works. One of our goals is to establish a gallery outlet for selling of our artworks and prints, so this piece of equipment is going to be very important in bringing this to fruition.



Grey Lynn Festival



On **Saturday 28 November** we will be at the Grey Lynn Park Festival (stalls 71 & 72). Spark Artists from Thursday morning's Draw to Print class will be exhibiting and selling prints created throughout the programme which was funded by the Lion Foundation. This will be an excellent opportunity to sell some works and get much needed community exposure. See you there!

New Tutor

A big welcome to Abi Raymond, our new tutor on the Friday morning open session. Abi is highly creative and passionate about art therapy and working with people with special needs. She has a Bachelor of Visual Arts, a Certificate in Counselling Theory and is currently studying at Whitecliffe College of Art & Design towards a Masters in Art Therapy and will graduate from the clinical programme in 2011. Abi is a very welcome addition to the team and we are thrilled to have her on board.

Other news

Suzanne and Josie recently were invited to Wellington to attend a cocktail party hosted by Microsoft NZ. During the event they featured a short video showing case studies of charitable organisations who had benefited from free software donated by Microsoft. Spark Studio was one of those organisations and the clip featured Suzanne talking about Spark Studio artists, plus some footage of our studio and artists in action. During the evening we met Paula Bennett who was very pleased to have her picture taken with us!



Update on funding:

Funding for 2010 is still an issue. As you may know, at the end of this year, we will lose both our TEC IDF Funding and the Adult Community Education Funding. Suzanne and Josie are currently seeking alternative sources of income, but in the meantime the future operation of Spark Studio remains insecure.

What can you do? If you can help us financially, or know of others who may be able to offer some support, please contact Josie at the office. Or visit our website – there is a facility there to make donations via the Givealittle website, and at the bottom of this page there are also some options. Plus you could:

- Buy our book, A Vital Practice, for \$30 plus P&P.
- Adopt an artist: Some of our artists have difficulty paying their class fees – contact Josie to find out ways you could make an enormous difference to a person's life by covering their school fees for a year, or even just a term. We would keep you up to date with their progress and present you with an original artwork as a thank-you.

Thank you: We are very grateful to the individuals and organisations who have supported Spark Studio and our artists with donations, purchasing of artworks and copies of our book. A huge thank-you to you all. Special thanks also goes to the ANZ Staff Foundation, Skycity Auckland Community Trust, Auckland City Creative Communities, COGS, Lion Foundation, JR McKenzie Trust, Mazda Foundation, TEC, ACE Community, ASB Foundation, Lotteries Community Funding, Elsie Steele, Kerr Taylor, NZ Community Trust, Pelorus Trust, Perry Foundation, Southern Trust and The Trusts for funding received over the past year. Without this support we could not have achieved what we have to date.

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Visit: 1st Clubroom, Rocky Nook Bowls, Fowlds Park, Rocky Nook Ave, St Lukes **Support:** Spark Studio by making a donation, please send a cheque made out to 'Spark Studio' to: MBE-M-152, Private Bag 92132, Victoria St West, Auckland, 1142
Internet banking: Spark Studio, ASB Bank, Dominion Road, 123016-0515977-00