

Spark Studio newsletter June/July 2009



Dates to remember:

Term 2 finishes on **Friday 3 July**.

After a two week break **Term 3** classes start on **Monday 20 July**.

Term 3 is 10 weeks long and finishes on **23 September**.

Northart.

On 18 June, Spark artists, tutors, family, friends and fans attended the Portraiture – Self and Community exhibition opening. Matthew Allerby, Lizzie Collenette, Allyson Hamblett, Lynette Loye, Daniel Mullen, Antonia Nicoll, Michael Bull, Shirley Roberts, Matthew Tucker and David Candy all exhibited the work resulting from this two module course. During the course students were introduced to and learnt about the mechanisms and elements involved in self and group portraiture. The works looked fabulous with 6 pieces being bought on the night, and others sold throughout the week.



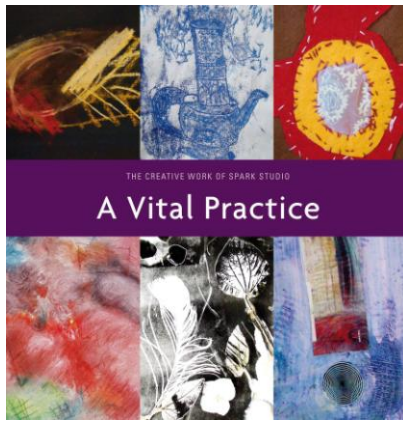
Big A Awards evening: Spark Studio artists also have works selected to exhibit at the Arts Access Aotearoa Big 'A' Awards in Wellington. The Big 'A' Awards 2009 will be presented at a special ceremony at Parliament on 27 July 2009. Works by Lynette Loye, Salome Moeauga, Mark Warner, Margaret McKay and John Penman will be on show.



Lynette Loye, Matthew Allerby, Allyson Hamblett, Robin Lockwood, John Warrington and John Penman also had some work exhibited in Wellington based Roar Gallery's first group show for 2009 running from 18 June – 4 July, 'BEZAR BEZAR'. Gaelen and Becky from Roar told us *"the show opened up to a very warm and colourful audience – and all really enjoyed the works from SPARK. They were taken by the freshness, emotion and alternative approach and are eager to find out more about where the works have come from. So far one of the artworks has sold (John Warrington – Untitled 2) – and it went to the committee chairman! People commented on SPARK artists' great use of colour and expression. They're really exciting pieces and the audience wants to learn more about the studio based on the interesting works they see."*

IHC Telecom Art Awards: The Telecom art awards are now open and Spark is currently selecting pieces for entry. All upper north island entries will be on show at SandZ Gallery in Hamilton, and the opening night will be on 23 July, at 5.30pm. The finalists will be announced in July, and a national exhibition of the 30 finalist artworks will be held at Chaffers Gallery in Wellington - from 18 September through to 14 October 2009. The awards will be presented at a function in Wellington on 23 September 2009.

Open Door Programme: On Saturday 4 July, Spark will be featured in a documentary on TV3's, Open Door programme at 11:00am.



A Vital Practice: This inspiring publication provides a documentation and outline of the orientation of practice and philosophies that underpin our projects and wider studio work implemented through our projects funded by the Tertiary Education Commission. The book presents and celebrates the experience and works of our students in their art making process. It features many of the artworks created throughout the programmes, and artist statements which authentically record each person's experience. To purchase a copy, please contact Josie at the Spark office. (details below).

New course: We are pleased to confirm that we have received funding from Auckland City Creative Communities to run a women's textile and materials course – with Amy McDonald as the central tutor. This project is an entirely new concept involving in-depth discussion relating to themes of personal experience for women with disability, learning mixed media and textile art with regular mentoring visits by a professional artist. It will most likely take place in Term 1, 2010 and we will be inviting students during the last quarter of this year.

Update on funding: Some good news: JR McKenzie Trust have very generously granted us funding for tutors' part salaries for this year, and the Mazda Foundation have enabled us to purchase a data projector and screen which is now being used as a teaching aid and for educating the public and prospective funders about what we do.

However, as you may know, Spark Studio is facing a funding crisis in 2010. Recent government restructures and budget cuts have meant we have lost our TEC funding which for the past three years has allowed us to run our in depth programmes such as Art of Theatre, Visual Arts Focus Group and Language Through Art. We will also be affected by the ACE Community Education cuts which will cut 80% of funding in 2010. Together, these losses will represent a 35% drop in our income next year, and with the shortage in funds from other trusts and philanthropic organisations we are facing a major financial emergency.

What can you do? If you can help us financially, or know of others who may be able to support us, please visit our website – there is a facility there to make donations via paypal, or 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 – for \$700 you could make an enormous difference to a person's life by covering their school fees for a year, or \$175 for 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 incredibly grateful to the individuals 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 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 the past financial 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