

Regional Arts Fund

Quick Response Grant

Case study:

EXPLORATIONS



Frankie O'Toole and students
Photograph by Julie Halifax

Project Summary

Colac Neighborhood House engaged teacher and artist Frankie O'Toole to run a two day workshop for rural and regional participants aged between 50 and 91. Participants learnt to use contemporary mixed media techniques, and were challenged to explore alternatives to their usual style of painting.

Community Benefits

While Colac Neighborhood House would have liked to offer more participants a place in the workshop, the project as a whole exceeded expectations. Not only did it enable participants to learn new skills and exhibit their work, an activity they have not experienced before, it also allowed members of the broader community to see their beautiful works of art.

Some members of the community who visited the exhibition were unaware that the group existed, and three new art lovers joined the group the following week. Two of these people coincidentally having a diagnosis of early onset dementia. This has opened a therapeutic door for people who can find comfort in doing something they love whilst in a safe space. A gentleman and his wonderful assistance dog was welcomed into the group, and put pencil to paper for the first time in a long while.

For the carers of the two lovely folk with early onset dementia, the ability to leave their loved ones in a place of creativity and warmth was described by them as "incredible", "wonderful".

Public Outcome

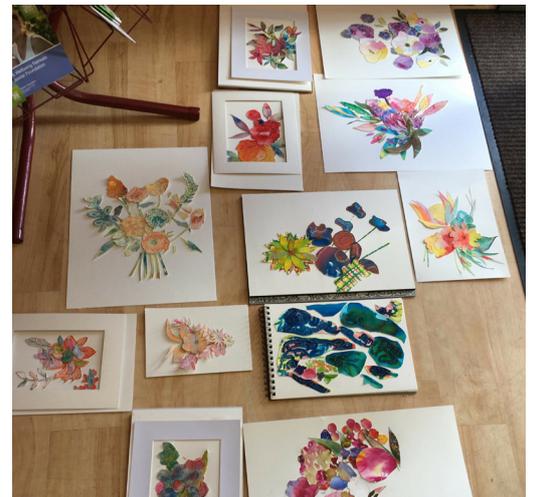
Thirteen local women spent two days learning new techniques and being challenged in the way they would usually create pieces of art. The works they created were then presented in an exhibition, EXPLORATIONS, which was held as part of the Colac Otway Arts trail on the weekend of October 20, 2018. 28 people visited the small exhibition. This resulted in five pieces being purchased and one participant being commissioned to create a piece of work for a local person.

Participant Benefits

The opportunity to learn from a trained artist and qualified art teacher has given a boost in confidence to all the participants. Many had not painted in the way they were taught, and have a new found passion for their craft. One participating artist stated "I loved doing this and I feel I learned such a lot from Frankie". Others spoke about being pushed out of their comfort zone and being amazed by what they could produce using the techniques they were taught.



EXPLORATIONS Artwork by Jenny Russell.
Photograph by Julie Halifax



Workshop Samples. Photograph by Julie Halifax



Australian Government

Regional Arts Fund

REGIONAL
ARTS
VICTORIA

Project Start Date	18/08/2018
Project End Date	20/10/2018
Project Location	Colac
Federal Electorate	Wannon
No. Audience	28
No. Participants	13
Project Beneficiary	Older people
Main Art Form	Cross Art Form
No. Artists Paid	1
No. Artists Unpaid	0
No. Arts Worker Paid	0
No. Arts Worker Unpaid	0