

IASSIDD

International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Development Disabilities: The Exhibition

As an international organisation, *IASSIDD* promotes the scientific study of intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities as well as the conditions of persons with these disabilities and their families.

In August of 2019 Glasgow hosted the 16th World Conference for the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Development Disabilities (IASSIDD). Ahead of the conference Project Ability was contacted by the organisers of the conference asking if we would coordinate a juried art exhibition to be on display during the conference at the SEC. This was the beginning of an exciting new venture for us and through an open call-out to artists with a disability working in Scotland we had the opportunity to discover many talented artists!

We pulled together a panel of judges out-with the Project Ability team, and it was their responsibility to select five of the many brilliant submissions we received. The artists were judged solely on their artwork, with all other information being withheld from the panel of judges.

The five selected artists cover a wide range of mediums and subject matter. Two of the artists were already working in the Project Ability studios and the other three were brand new to us.

The exhibition was a great success and we decided the work should be exhibited again as in our gallery at Trongate 103. We are delighted to share with our visitors these five artists who, as a group, present a superb example of just some of the amazing art being created by artists with a disability living in Scotland.

THE ARTISTS

Ian Bruin, b.

Ian Bruin is an artist working in Project Ability's Aspire studios. He has a mixed practice of painting, drawing, animation and digital art. His artistic talent and skill has flourished in the past several years. In 2014 he was awarded a commendation for his short film titled 'How do you get a poor penny off the road' from the national art competition, Create! Art For Autism.

Ian initially found Project Ability via his school when he attended one of our summer animation classes;

"I have always loved drawing on paper and on my computer. I have been doing short animations since 2008 at home on my PC. My school art teacher got me started at Project Ability in the summertime doing a film-making course. I met Alan and Ben. They showed me how to use a camera to make an animation. I had never done this before. I started by drawing and painting my backgrounds, and then I made my figures.

My teachers showed me how to light up my backgrounds, and how to do stop frame animation with my figures. It took a really long time to do but it was great fun. Then they put it into the Mac software to make it into a proper film. I also liked meeting other people who liked doing the same things as me. They had really good ideas too. I love being at Project Ability."

David Cormack, b. 1987

David lives in Comrie, Perthshire, Scotland and is an artist working in a variety of media. He grew up in Glasgow, living there until he was twenty-one. He loves the city; all the activity, the buildings, the streets, and the people. He is at home there and there is so much to see and to photograph.

David moved to Comrie with his family in 2009. He has known this beautiful place since he was born through spring, summer, autumn and winter holidays. David has gone from living in Glasgow and visiting Comrie to now living in Comrie and visiting Glasgow. His viewpoint and perspective on the world have changed.

David works at Southton Smallholding which offers horticultural therapy for people with particular needs. He loves working and being outdoors. He has Down's Syndrome and also difficulty speaking, but he communicates well through visual means including his photographic work, drawing and painting. His camera accompanies him wherever he goes whether in the city or out in the wilds.

David's work has previously been exhibited in Kew Gardens, The Proud Gallery (Central) and The OXO Building all in London through the 'My Perspective' exhibitions. This exhibition is permanently on tour worldwide. His work has also been published in 'Shifting Perspectives', a book which brings together the work of people with Down's syndrome and the work of other professional photographers studying the lives of people with Down's syndrome. He has also been exhibited at Trellis in Scotland and has illustrated a book written about Southton Smallholding where he works.

Tzipporah Johnston, b. ?

Tzipporah Johnston has an accomplished practice of both digital art and embroidery. For the IASSIDD exhibition Tzipporah submitted her digital drawings, but she is just as invested in embroidery as she is the digital arts.

"Using embroidery, knitting, felting and other traditional handwork techniques, I create work that explores aspects of my identity as an autistic woman, while challenging the lines between 'Art' and 'Craft'.

I am a regular exhibitor in traditional handcraft shows, and was 2018 Handcrafts Champion at the Royal Highland Show. My work was awarded the Edinburgh Knitting and Crochet Guild 1980-1994 Perpetual Challenge Trophy in 2017 and 2018 for innovation and creativity in knitting. I am passionate about the promotion of traditional skills as both cultural heritage and respected artistic practice. I have a BA in History and M.St. in Jewish Studies from Balliol College, Oxford and this background continues to inform my work. I have lived and worked in Edinburgh, Oxford, London and Jerusalem."

James MacDonald, b. 1997

James was born in Alberta, Canada.

"The sensational beauty of Alberta's landscape inspires me. I paint on large canvases with acrylic paint. My paintings capture sunlight and shadows with warm and cool colours, and

describe the mountains and lakes with bold strokes. I focus on handling my paint strokes in ways to create movement and balance in my painting. I like to create unique compositions and capture the essence of my subject in a beautiful light."

In 2018 James spent time in Scotland where he focused solely on his artistic practice.

"While I was in Scotland I was inspired by the rough and readiness of the Scottish Colourists approach to landscape painting so I took large canvases outside to paint. I chose an area which my grandparents were from and explored the rugged and breath-taking landscape of my heritage. I painted for many days, each time carrying my canvas and easel large distances on foot to study scenes of nature that inspired my creativity. I video documented and wrote about several of these outdoor adventures on my website: www.jamesmac.me"

Cameron Morgan, b. 1965

Morgan is a multi-talented and prolific artist working with Project Ability as part of the Aspire programme since 1991.

In 2010 Project Ability applied for Creative Scotland funding on behalf of Morgan for the Generation show *Cameron's Way: Coast to Coast*. The success of this exhibition firmly established Morgan's standing as a contemporary artist. In 2016 Morgan was awarded an Unlimited commission which enabled him to make two new bodies of work; *TV Classics Part 1* and *Put your sweet lips closer to the phone*. 2016 also saw Cameron awarded a lifetime fellowship to the RSA, with work exhibited at several different venues, exhibitions and festivals around the U.K.

In the past few years Morgan has been fulfilling a research and development grant from Creative Scotland. This entails working in collaborative residency projects with other professional artists, out-with a supported studio.

He has also been attending conferences and events as a portrait artist, drawing and painting live portraits of the public. In March 2020 Cameron has a solo exhibition of paintings at the Theatr Brycheiniog in Wales.

Alongside the more specific art projects Morgan continues to maintain a prolific studio practice here at Project Ability, working on commissions in ceramics and painting for exhibitions.

WHAT IS IASSIDD?

IASSIDD was born out of three international congresses held in Europe between 1960 and 1963. The first, held in London in 1960, was titled *Observation of World Mental Health Year*. This event was sponsored by the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, The Royal Society of Medicine, the British Psychological Society, in cooperation with the National Association of Mental Health and (the former) American Association on Mental Deficiency. A second congress was held in Vienna in 1961 and a third in Copenhagen in 1964. The International Association was duly formalized at the 1964 Congress, with a constitution published in the *American Journal of Mental Deficiency* (1965, 69 599) and the *Journal of Mental Deficiency Research* (1965, 9, 150).

As an international organization, IASSIDD promotes the scientific study of intellectual disabilities and related developmental disabilities and of conditions of persons with these disabilities and their families. IASSIDD defines Intellectual disability as a significant intellectual deficit present from birth, or which originates at an early age or during the developmental period.

What Activities Does IASSIDD Sponsor?

The Association furthers its purpose by undertaking the following activities:

- Serving as a medium for deliberation, for exchange of ideas, knowledge, skills and experience and for compilation and dissemination of information.
- Organizing international and regional congresses, conferences and seminars.
- Encouraging research in the field of intellectual and developmental disability, including causes, prevention, diagnosis, evaluation, therapy, management, education and social habilitation of persons with an intellectual or developmental disability and their families.
- Producing and distributing publications on the scientific study of intellectual and developmental disabilities and of the care of such persons.
- Fostering, encouraging and promoting membership in the various professional disciplines in national organizations concerned with the scientific study of intellectual and developmental disability.
- Co-operating with the other organization directly or closely related with the scientific study of intellectual and developmental disabilities.