



## Newsletter October 2024

From exhibiting in Paris to a pop-up show in town, media coverage in print, radio and on television, the last term was unexpectedly busy!

### ***The 2024 IHC Art Awards***

This term started with the announcement of the finalists for the **2024 IHC Art Awards**.

Two of our artists were Highly Commended – **Nigel Clunie** and **Avtar Singh**.

Twelve out of our 17 entries sold at the Awards' exhibition, including Nigel's Anchored in the Harbour.

Congratulations to Avtar, Nigel and all our talented entrants!



*Image: Anchored in the Harbour by Nigel Clunie*



*Image: Aroha Home by Avtar Singh*



*Image : Diana in Paris*

### **ArtPara - Māpura Studios in Paris**

Māpura Studios Director, **Diana McPherson**, was asked to represent the Oceania region at **ArtPara - Shine Together** in Paris in early September.

Diana presented a paper to the world disability leaders forum on disability arts in Aotearoa New Zealand. Hopefully this will open doors for our disabled artists on the world stage.

ArtPara - Shine Together featured an exhibition of work from disabled artists from all over the world.

Twenty-seven countries participated in the exhibition and it was the first time NZ was represented.



*Image: The Matai by Ululau Ama*

Ululau Ama had three paintings sent over and exhibited in Paris and Matthew Allerby had two.

This was a wonderful opportunity for our artists, our studio, and the future of disability art everywhere.



*Image: Big Mountain by Matthew Allerby*

### **Media coverage**

**RNZ National** visited the studio to talk to Diana about her trip to Paris and the ArtPara exhibition. Their reporter, Leonard Powell, also talked to **Nunu Ama** and tutor **Tim Danko**.

You can hear the story here:-  
<https://tinyurl.com/yz8pzfv7>

**TVNZ** came in the following week to film a story on the **ArtPara** exhibition and our participating artists, **Matthew Allerby** and **Ululau Ama**. The story was part of their new **Happy to Report**

ArtPara – Shine Together was at the OECD Headquarters Gallery in Paris, in conjunction with the 2024 Paralympics from the 2nd until the 11th of September.



*Image top: Ululau & Mother Maununu Ama*

*Image above: Matthew Allerby & Director Diana mcPherson*

section on Breakfast:-

<https://t.ly/YZkvx>



### **Window shopping**

From mid-August until the end of the month, we had a small pop-up show in **The Strand Arcade**, between Queen and Elliot Streets.



It was a window browse-and-buy show, featuring around 15 artworks. They looked terrific and added a bit of beauty to the inner-city. We're keen to do it again.

*Images above: Māpura Studios Pop-Up show in the Strand Arcade windows*



*Image: Earth, Wind & Disastrous Bonfire by Shyroe Henry*



*Image: Moonlight by Liebchen Tamahori*

## **Local hero**

Māpura artist and disability advisor **Allyson Hamblett** has made it to the finals in the **2024 Westfield Local Hero Awards!**

Every Westfield shopping centre has three finalists, and Allyson is one of the three at Westfield St Lukes.

If she's successful, Māpura Studios will receive \$20,000 to provide art and art therapy classes to disabled and disadvantaged people in the community.

As an artist with Cerebral Palsy and an advocate for a more creative and inclusive society, Allyson is a living example of the benefits of art therapy - and a true local hero.



*Image: Allyson Hamblett*

The winner is announced on 15th October!



## **Westpac managers volunteering in the studio**

Over three mornings in late July/early August we had 11 managers from various **Westpac NZ** branches volunteering in the Morningside studio. Another three joined our Leading a Creative Life class last Thursday.



Rather than clean brushes and scrub the floor, the Westpac managers talked to the artists about their art and their lives for the new **Artists** section on our website - <https://www.mapurastudios.org.nz/artist-profiles/>

They also watched and sometimes assisted our artists at work.

Over the two **Leading a Creative Life** Thursday morning classes they attended, they received painting tutorials and produced wonderful artworks to hang at home, or on the walls of their branch and head office.



Thanks very much to Westpac's **Matt Hopkinson** and **Xanthe Moore** for organising the volunteers.



### **Artist profile – Avtar Singh**

**Avtar's** inspiration for her wonderful artworks comes from being able to draw what she sees, and her perception creates her unique drawings.

*Image: Avtar Singh with her IHC Award*



*Image: Rainbow in the Manukau  
by Avtar Singh*

She has been a student at Māpura since 2022. She attends the Tuesday afternoon Open Studio Two class and likes drawing, painting, walking and reading books.

In August, Avtar was awarded Highly Commended for her artwork **Aroha Home** in the **2024 IHC Art Awards**.

### ***Open Day and Fundraiser***

Our **Open Day** this year, **Wonderful World**, will be held on **Saturday 16th November** in our Fowlds Park, Morningside studio from 9.30am until 2.30pm – it promises to be an exciting day so mark it in your calendar!

Our very first **Fundraiser** will be in December – more details to come.

### ***Thank you!***

We wish to thank our generous funders:- Trillian Trust, Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) Rodney, Manukau and Auckland, Kerr Taylor Foundation, Rehabilitation Welfare Trust, Papakura Local Board, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, Manurewa Local Board, and Auckland Council Regional Arts and Culture.