

studio A

Media Release

May 08, 2019

Studio A artists take on new challenges

With the strength of their super powers, creativity and adaptability, Studio A artists are still making great art during COVID-19, and bringing colour to the new normal.

Studio A is NSW's only supported studio for professional artists with intellectual disability. The Crows Nest based not-for-profit, established over five years ago, helps artists overcome the challenges they face in accessing conventional education and professional development pathways needed to be successful and renowned visual artists.

Over the past month Studio A artists have donned their masks, sanitised their hands, packed up their art supplies and jumped online. Zoom art sessions, home studios and a very socially distanced Crows Nest art space is their new creative landscape. Studio A artists have adapted and continue working while ensuring their community remains safe.

Operating digitally and remotely has required increased resources and thereby unexpected costs. Workshops, exhibitions and a number of commissions have been cancelled, immediately reducing the artists and Studio A's income. Despite this the artists are forging ahead.

"It has been inspiring to witness Studio A artists' creativity and passion fuel their capacity to overcome these considerable obstacles. Our artists have furiously kept making art and delivering work to commission, meeting each restriction with new possibilities," said Gabrielle Mordy, CEO/Artistic Director Studio A.

The studio's artists now dance via Zoom with guest artists Harriet Body and Rosie Deacon. Studio A artist Emily Crockford does so from her home studio, set up in her family garage. This is the space she also uses to work on her paintings and upcoming commissions.

From her 'home love haven', performance artist and poet, Meagan Pelham is penning love poems upon request and posting them across the nation to help foster socially-distanced romance.

"Our artists are using their artistic talents to inspire and engage with our community and are developing new ways to connect from a distance. Meagan Pelham is filming a series of fun and quirky video messages to share with her followers on Instagram and

Facebook. Another project in the works involves Studio A's Greg Sindel using his illustrative superpower to design infographics, making public information more accessible and inclusive," Ms Mordy said.

When asked how important sharing art is during this time of COVID-19 Greg Sindel said: *"Alot! To try and bring some colour and rainbow to everything, to fill them with hopes and dreams. If you ask me I just hope eventually the world can try and get back to normal. Until then we will just have to use our survival and our wit in order to make it to the next year, with our cartoon stories and imaginations."*

---ends---

Please contact Karla Hansen for more information and hi-res images:

karla.hansen@studioa.org.au / ph. 0401 916 048

studioa.org.au



Studio A artist Meagan Pelham working from home and her artwork, inspired by her reflections on how to survive solitude during COVID-19.