

ARTGUSTO

SUPPORTED ART STUDIO | GEELONG

Celebrating 2019

January – December 2019

Jan/Feb

Yet again the year began busy with the preparations for the Together Project. This was a collaboration between ArtGusto, The Disability Services Commissioner, Arts Access Victoria and the National Wool Museum for the Valid Having a say conference. ArtGusto facilitated wrap art making in the Nebula for 2 days with Arts Access staff and helped curate the exhibition that was in the Deakin Project Space on the waterfront. Everyone was enthusiastic and we had some really creative wrapped sculptures completed while we asked and answered some of life's big questions.



Caroline working on a still Life & Liam working toward an exhibiton.

All the artists got right into their work with energy for the new year ahead. It's so good to see everyone working on their individual arts practice we all have different goals and approach our art in different ways.



I love the small unexpected creations that just happen without too much conscious thought or awareness. These can be very powerful and very beautiful.



Matt Exhibiting his work at the Treehouse Café.

Matt Had two of his drawings exhibited at the Treehouse Café in Feb. Check out his T Shirt.



Oh no what happened to Matt!

Christian, Matt and Sharon visited the Old Melbourne Gaol and enjoyed a tour of the Watch House. We were taken and arrested but later let out! Then a lucky find - Ned Kelly's real amour at the State Library on show the same day.



Helen's Angel & Hannah's Doll



Christian's Drawing of a view of Yarra st Geelong.

We welcome 3 new Artists this year Jess Madden, Jordan Pecar and Trevor Ah Hang. They each bring something very special to our studio and as the year unfolds, we see them each develop their artistic goals and grow in confidence. Jess has a dynamic style of art and isn't scared to make marks, Jordan is all about Dragons creating detailed pictures with incredible focus and Trevor is finding his 'thing', he brings much life experience to his art and in time begins to resolve his work. He has a quite graphic /architectural approach to his work giving it a real sense of calm.

March /April

This was the time of great outings. We headed to the Geelong Gallery for a floor talk of the Sydney Nolan Ned Kelly Series exhibition with Elishia Furet the Learning & Audience Engagement Manager at the Geelong Gallery. Elishia always does a fantastic job explaining the relationships between the artist and their art helping us understand and appreciate the work and giving us skills to approach other works we encounter.



Elishia explaining Sydney Nolan's work at the Geelong Gallery.

Empire By Rone – Burnham Beeches was next up and it proved to be a once in a lifetime experience for many. We hired Celia's husband Tim and his minibus and headed to the Dandenong Ranges for a day out. Burnham beeches is an old forgotten mansion. Rone the artist, had created and installation throughout the mansion, taking us into another world. Everyone who came along was moved by the experience. It was an exhibition that took a year to create and was dismantled within weeks of its completion. Attendance was very limited so we were extremely fortunate to get to see it.



Outside the mansion about to begin the experience Tim our driver in red.





The artist himself – Rone (Tyrone Wright) with Liam and Meg.



Empire Rone ended with a virtual reality session.

The Escher X Nendo -Between Two Worlds Block Buster Exhibition at National Gallery of Victoria proved another winner. The immersive experience adds that extra dimension helping everyone to engage and take something away from the day.



Robert enjoyed the interactive experience coming out energized.

Returning to the studio, everyone is gearing up for a busy month ahead with exhibitions in May. Some strong work is being created and it's filling the studio with an enthusiastic vibe. I enjoy seeing how each artist approaches their work so individually. This brings such diversity to the studio.



Christian and his Worksafe Building drawing, Jordan's Eastern Dragon drawing.



Helen working industriously on her latest piece.



Liam working toward his up and coming solo show at Boom Gallery and Jess Walker proud of her latest finished painting.

Hannah's bold colours beautifully balanced and Robert showing singular focus



Heads down working away everyone focused on their work. Robert's coffee never far from his reach!

Jess Madden's and Liam's distinctive styles. Jess draws a portrait of Margaret and Liam another awesome still life.

Matt entered a story board into the Dolce Stone Writers Competition. It wasn't easy for him and he had to move out of his usual comfort zone and push himself into that uncomfortable place where creativity really begins to work its magic.



Matt and Celia celebrate his achievements.



Matt's entry – A story of anxiety.

Matt's work goes on to win an award at the Dolce Stone Writers competition, he was also invited to put this work up for consideration for an acquisition into the Dax Museum's permanent collection. Which is still in the process. They feel it will help young people who suffer anxiety. Matt has also had this piece and an article about himself published on the Writer's Victoria website! What an achievement! This shows how pushing through those barriers can be well worth it. Congratulations Matt we are all very proud of you and know how hard you worked.



Robert stopping for a break and a chat with Adrian -in his own way

May/June

I think this was the busiest period of our year. We had so many projects come to completion, so many things to celebrate.

Liam Had his first solo show in a commercial Gallery. *Off the Leash* opened in May at Boom Gallery in Newtown. His work was impressively executed and delightfully resolved – Great work Liam! Just about the whole crew came to the opening to cheer you on.





Some of the Friends of ArtGusto committee at Boom Gallery for Liam's Off the Leash exhibition. Previous photo Celia, Marion and Sharon Rejoicing with Liam – Job Well Done!



Jess' style is beginning to show itself with this delightful joey and mum.

Art X is the next exhibition at the Eastern Hub where Caroline wins the Lions Encouragement Award for her painting of a 'Furry Possum' Well deserved!



Back to the Geelong Gallery to participate in an Indigenous weaving workshop facilitated by Aunty Bronwyn Razem. We made pendants while we learned about indigenous culture through art. Erin from Deakin University was also there to lend a hand.



Pure concentration it's a lot harder than it looks!



A hugely proud bunch wearing our beautifully woven designs.

The 4th Give Where you Live – Auction at the Mill was here and ArtGusto were invited again due to popular demand. We are now synonymous with the event, being part of all Four.

Robert and Christian again donated works which sold, raising money for local people in need. We sold an additional 5 works on the night with Jess walker selling her first piece! Matt and Claire, Christian and Janet,

Robert and Stephen, Celia, Jordan, Meg and Sharon had a great evening with excitement and lots of laughs.



Celia and Jordan enjoying the company at the Auction at the Mill.

Out n About to Bendigo for the *Tudors to Windsors - British Royal Portraits* exhibition. A Huge Thanks to Krystyna who drove Christian Matt and I to Bendigo and back with a Glenlyon and Castlemaine stop along the way. It was an insightful exhibit of our British history which we spent a good two hours indulging in.



Tudors to Windsors British Royal Portraits - Bendigo Art Gallery

To top off a busy time let's throw in a whole studio residency!

ArtGusto were invited to the National Wool Museum for a Two- week studio in residency to be concluded with an exhibition of finished and unfinished works, reflecting people's response to the Wool Museum environment. We decided to work in

wool for the fortnight and purchased a mountain of beautiful superfine merino wool tops from Tree Top Colour Harmonies. Armed with our gorgeous wool we began with a felting workshop facilitated by Marie Allaman Education and Public Programs Officer of the National Wool Museum. This was so much fun!



Everyone got into the new environment and began creating wonderful creations. We had quite a few visitors come and work with us and the communal nature of the projects lent itself to plenty of interaction.



Trevor demonstrates his knitting skills.