



*Hannah teaches Jordan to knit*



*Helen's Mum Debbie joined us and Adrian got right into the process*



*Trevor immersed in all things wool and Jordan with her new friend at her side. Jess and Caroline with some of their finished pieces.*



*Marion - There's always one. Dare I say more?*



*Jess Walker who didn't want to touch wool, found her own response to the residency. This whimsical painting was inspired by the sheep in the museum.*



Melbourne Museum another quality exhibition & a fun day out!



Robert and Andrew chilling to a film of Woodstock

## July/August

After a week's break and the beginning of a new term, we all felt refreshed ready to tackle the second half of the year. Christian and I visited the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art and the Malthouse.



Kayla Blanchard who began her structured workplace Learning with us in May is making good progress. Kayla is a student in her final year at Newcombe Secondary College and comes to work in the studio every Monday afternoon.

This shows the supportive culture that has developed in the studio. Jordan has created a protective shield of dragons to help support Adrian when he was having an anxious day. Adrian totally got it and it made a world of difference to his mood. We all need a dragon in our lives at times.



Adrian under Jordan's protection.



Morning teatime in the studio

As more exhibitions are coming up everyone is working studiously.



*Stephen and Celia Hang new pieces as Caroline paints away.*

The NDIA have invited ArtGusto to exhibit work at their NDIA National Executive Conference to be held at the Geelong Football Ground. This is for Two days and turns out to be a very successful venture with unexpected opportunities for some.



*Celia and Sharon had help from Georgie to bump in and out*



*Christian and Anne-Louise Dawes Branch Manager NDIS Employment taskforce who purchased Christian's drawing of Portarlington Mill*



*Robert celebrating his sale – the work is off to Sydney. Sold at the NDIA conference*



*Celebrating Birthdays Helen's and Celia's what fun!*



Sharon is asked to help Boom Gallery celebrate their 8th Birthday. *Ren, Kate and the team at Boom have shown our artists respect and inclusivity. The artists have always been respected for their art and their ability to create. Wishing Boom Gallery all the best for the years to come!*

During the holidays Celia and Sharon exhibit works at the Accessible & Inclusive Geelong report launch at Costa Hall on the Waterfront. We received lots of great comments about the work and were delighted to see Meg performing too.



## September/October

Jasmine Naragi a year 10 work experience student from Geelong Baptist College spent a week with us at ArtGusto. She fitted right in and everyone benefitted. She came to Melbourne where we visited Australian Galleries in Collingwood and also artists studios. This was great for all to see how some artists work - not too dissimilar to us.



*Jasmine and Liam discussing his work.*



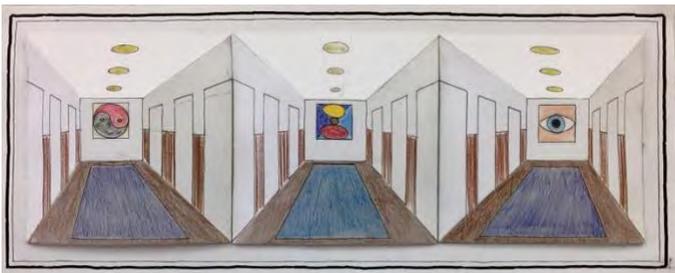
*Meg playing flue at the launch at Costa Hall*



*Christian sells his piece to the Acting CEO of the NDIS Vicki Rundle. It will hang in the NDIS National Office*



Wednesday crowd - what do they get up to???



a fair bit really.  
Trevor's work,  
Jordan's work  
Hannah's sale  
Jordan in situ

## November/December

Not long to go and so much yet to do!

The NDIA asked ArtGusto to exhibit at the Light Up annual awards at Marvel stadium. NDIA staff from across Australia were there to celebrate. It's a Thursday so Christian and I headed up to Melbourne to manage the exhibition for the day.



NDIA event coordinating staff visit the studio in the follow.



From this ↑  
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Robert works his magic



The exhibition was another exciting day. The works were couriered up to Melbourne, so we enjoyed a train ride with some of the Crew from the People and Culture Division of the NDIA.

Trevor and Robert had work chosen to be purchased by the NDIA and presented to Two of the award winners.



*The works exhibited at Marvel Stadium*



*Smaller works on a table*



*A drawing by Jess Madden 'Florence and the Machine' purchased at the NDIA Light Up annual awards at Marvel stadium.*



*Just ridiculous really*

Stephen Oakes kindly worked on an introductory short film about the ArtGusto Studio. The Monday crew were interviewed and with Stephen's integrity & sensitivity to the artists, he created an insightful look into what it means for all of us, to have a place like ArtGusto to be part of.



*So, we didn't know whether this was Alfresco art or the true meaning of 'Outsider' Art.*

While Stephen was filming, to keep the noise level down, Robert's table was set up outside.



*Celia's turn to be interviewed.*

Last exhibition of the year – *Through My Eyes* the City of Greater Geelong's exhibition to celebrate International Day of People with Disability. We had 14 artists exhibit their works in the show including Kayla. The curation was professionally completed by COGG staff and a big thank you to Sandy and Jane for a huge effort! I asked Jess Walker to say a few words at the opening about being an artist. She was amazing! Off the cuff and she spoke so well. Jess you are a natural. We are very proud of you.



*Jess Walker speaking at the Gordon Gallery COGG opening*

ArtGusto has been asked to work on a collaborative Mural Project with Courthouse Arts for 2020. The planning process has begun. We have had a couple of meetings with the youth artists and Amber the Curator at Courthouse Arts. The project is funded and will begin in January. It is the nearly 30 meter wall alongside the old Court House on Geringhap street.

Sacred Heart College students are meeting with us also as they are looking for a community service project and wanted to work with ArtGusto. I thought this was the perfect fit.



*Ideas are coming together with everyone's input.*



*The wall as it is now –formulating our ideas.*

Connected 2019 exhibition is on and Eight of the ArtGusto artists were chosen this year. Christian received a Highly Commended. As of the 12<sup>th</sup> December Meg and Trevor have sold their works. Christian and I visited Federation Square in Melbourne. Meg and Trevor attended the Opening and Jess Walker took her family for a look.



*ArtGusto's Eight works in Connected 2019 at Federation Square*

*Well that's another year completed with a huge amount of new works to show for it. Awards won, personal goals accomplished, a record number of sales, new connections within the community made and many more new opportunities for you as artists.*

*ArtGusto has been in operation now for 4 ½ years and we keep having successes – that's every time someone completes a new work or has a win, gains in confidence, makes a new friend, realizes their potential. These are our measures.*

*You all continue to make me proud. I know how hard you work and the challenges you have in your lives. I know sometimes you are scared to push through and try something new - but you, do and it pays off. One day we will look back and know we were there at the beginning shaping best practice for artists with disabilities – all of us have a part to play in that. They talk about Entrepreneurship and how that is the future well that's what you are all doing. We are creating something that will benefit artists in years to come. We don't always get it right, we are creating something new, but with each other's support and encouragement we learn along the way and will achieve something truly extraordinary.*

*Thank you to Marion, Ceila and Stephen for everything you do please know you are appreciated for your talent, humor and generosity and for looking after me when needed. Thanks to the Friends for your continued support and encouragement I value all that you do.*

*Thank you to the artists for putting up with me and for all of your incredible work and enthusiasm!*

*Merry Christmas all and Enjoy your holiday*

*Sharon xxx*

