

WIP Artist Statements

(artists are listed in alphabetical order)

Artist Statements

Alana Winter

These are my most recent portraits which were made at the studio. I am experimenting with new techniques and materials, while also getting close to and connected with my fellow studio participants. This is an experience for both me and them! This work is an unfolding process for me and holds the promise of many further possibilities.

Angelyka Nowak

When I came to the studio, my practice was very particular and precise. I wanted to explore ways that my work could be a bit free-er and looser. I have discovered that it is ok to be particular and precise, while also being free and loose, and to even combine the two!

Bronwyn Handfield

These drawings of abstract patchwork are inspired by Korean wrapping cloths from the Choson Dynasty (1392 – 1910). The design transposed the silk seams into dark lines between the coloured fabric. Traditional 'Pojagi' square cloths are used to wrap, carry, and cover things but also an expression of respect for items wrapped. Pojagi are either Kung po from the royal court or min po refers to those used by ordinary people. Several types of min po were used when performing Buddhist rites in temples or in homes of believers. Reference: Rapt in Colour. Korean Textiles and Costumes of the Choson Dynasty 1998. Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, Aust. & the Museum of Korean Embroidery, Seoul.

Callum Watson

Callum Watson is a Naarm based mixed media artist working on Wurundjeri country, close to the traditional waters of Kooyongkoot/Gardiners Creek. Primarily working with drawing and painting, gesture and spontaneity are critical in the process of abstraction for Callum, where colour and composition push alternative outcomes in order to find unique and experimental solutions. Callum's work plays on themes of illness and perseverance, using the process of art for self-development and a better understanding of the world.

Christele "Chrissy" Brunet

In this piece I explore shape, colour, contrast and pattern. I'm in my experimental phase and have created a new process to make this work. From an original ink

marbling image, I created floating abstract tangrams. The piece is influenced by a patchwork print which reminded me of mosaics.

Dorotea Regner

'Flowers for Mum' - this artwork is dedicated to my Mum, my beloved Mum, who passed away on the 6th March 2023.

J.B.

'Primordia' (origin) is a visual exploration of the connection between our consciousness, physical body, and the tangible world. "it's not the reality that shapes us, but the lens through which our brain views the world that shapes our reality" - Shawn Anchor.

Liam San Jose

This artwork is based on Goya's 'Saturn devouring his son', and is my take on the painting. I have tried to capture the rawness of the painting.

Lianne Yearbury

I am interested in line, colour, and shape, and these concerns are what the works have in common. The medium used and the method of production are very different, as are their moods. Their differences unite them in an ironic way!

Lynne Kells

There has been a pattern portrayed in my artwork apart from the obvious of loving bright, clear colours and curved, knotted shapes. I like challenging the viewers to follow the pathways that hopefully explores the entire artwork.

On reflection I often feel that I am not on a straight route with my life. There have been many changes of directions, ups and downs, ins, and outs. Creativity, problem solving, and resilience have helped me navigate these pathways.

Many of us must reassess, accept, or change our directions, adjust to new conditions, release dreams and expectations, learn from experiences and alter goal posts. All experiences, contribute to making who I am today. Nothing learned is wasted. I can work towards maintaining health and happiness. Sometimes I would love to be less challenged, but I would not be who I am today if things came easily to me.

Maggie Bell

I'm Maggie Bell, I have always had a love of art since a young child and it wasn't till quite recently that I have been able to pursue my dream of producing art. I'm an

intuitive artist who works with recycled, up cycled everyday objects and natural products.

I love to use everyday objects like saws, plates, building supplies to show that beauty and art are everywhere.

I found these plates in an op shop I which was immediately drawn to them and could see a picture in my head of my starting point, it's all about the journey and it could end up completely different.

My work is intuitive so it will be whatever comes to me on that day.

I have used pages randomly chosen from a book as the background and in the foreground is a tattoo cut from a magazine. I am drawn to certain colours to use.

For me Art is total freedom, it's been the BEST thing I have ever done.

As a long-term survivor of DV I have total freedom to express myself in anyway with any medium, to be my real true authentic self.

Nothing is right, nothing is wrong, it just is. It has also given me the opportunities to work through my trauma without having to talk about it.

Martin Weatherhead

My art practice has always been very diverse in terms of subject matter, materials and intent.

The work that I have been producing recently consists of lettering and words painted on board, paying attention to colour, texture and to the edges of the forms. My intent is to communicate emotionally and sensually through carefully selected words and phrases, keeping them impactful and short without reducing their poetic potency to the status of a meme.

Michela Cardamone

Curiosity with materials & processes – what began as the cleanup after a printmaking session became the basis for a series of works exploring the beauty of imagery found in the incidental, the silence within the roar, the stillness within the overwhelm, the sanctuary within the chaos. Inspired by a curiosity with childhood games, bookmaking processes, and large scale sculptural works, designed to be moved within and navigated - the roaring waves of the ocean! An attempt is made to represent interests using image reproduction, and reformation.

Poppy Egan

Poppy Egan has been creating art for over 20 years. Her most recent work she created at Dax studio is mixed media and is an exploration of colour and materials. Poppy Egan's work is process driven. She describes her work 'as a form of alchemy where she is testing the reactivity of the materials.' She creates the work using dropper, like a scientific experiment. At the same time the process of creating is

meditative and playful. There is a sense of 'letting go of perfection' and capturing the present moment in the flow of the materials. The works are spontaneous and often quick to create. The final works reflect the process by which they were made.

Romy Durrant

Romy Durrant is an artist and mental health worker living and working on Wurundjeri Country. In 2022 she was a recipient of Arts Access Victoria's Accelerate: Nurture grant. In 2019-2020 she completed a residency at The Dax Centre and produced a written work for the 'From Heart + Mind' exhibition. This is her first time exhibiting her visual art.

Painting quiets my mind in a way few other things do. It's a safe space for uninterrupted creativity and flow. Whilst painting is a very internal and solo process for me, I want my work to leave the viewer with an impression of what being in this in-between place of solitude and retreat, energy and wonder, feels like for the artist.

My process is intuitive; at most I start with an idea of the colours I'd like to use and from there I allow the brush to guide me. This work was a response to inertia I was experiencing with another canvas, and captures the direction I want to go with my art practice — that is, somewhere dynamic and brave, with colour and movement.

Studio Dax has nurtured my practice by allowing me to playfully explore my style and technique, and helping me to build confidence sharing my work with others. You can follow me on Instagram: @romydurrant.

Samantha Martin

These pieces are one; watercolour and felt tip pen, ink on folded paper. This piece represents a wave of curiosity and adventure within my mind. My art practice is diverse as I like to use a variety of materials and is continually evolving as a result of being part of the Dax Studio. Encouraged to create and express myself without judgement my artwork is developing its own voice.

Steven Groves

Sad Stars.

Cigarettes and menstrual cloths smoulder amongst the ashes.

Enter the battle with a bottle of moustaches.

Tears of stars as sunlight gnashes.

Jesus wept and morning crashes.

Experience Statements

The artists share their experience of being part of the Studio Dax program

Alana Winter

The studio has provided me with a sense of purpose, both for my art and for my social connection – school without the stresses!

I have made friends during my time at the studio and discovered I have a lot in common with the other artists.

I have been able to show my work and enjoy the processes, guidance, and energy in the classroom.

Angelyka Nowak

The studio has helped me to be free-er with my drawings, and to explore what the paint actually does, rather than trying to control it! It has helped me to broaden my skills and has given me reason to try things that I otherwise wouldn't have done.

Bronny Handfield

There are many art classes available in Melbourne but DAX provides a different and supportive atmosphere. Specific interests or intuition can be followed with the tutors willing to respond, prompting the use of different materials, equipment or directions for the development of a personal concept.

The daily group experience was fun and enlightening, and time dedicated to an individual's more complex expression and ideas was nurturing to build self-confidence.

Callum Watson

The studio has provided routine and structure for both life and art. It has enabled progression in technique and creative development, and is a space that is similar to a studio environment, and that makes exploring mediums possible.

Caron Boulter

Participating in the Studio Dax Arts Program, I attend 3 afternoons a week a total of 12 hours per week, has fostered my creative and personal growth.

The staff, volunteers and participants are all talented artists, and they contribute to a positive, encouraging and safe creative space where we explore and make and share

our art works. This environment has renewed my passion for creating art, established positive social connections and increased my self-confidence.

Engaging in Studio Dax art program provides me with many opportunities to further my arts practice including working with a wide range of art materials, exploring and developing art themes, also learning how to plan and prepare for an art exhibition. Sharing ideas with staff and students and learning from each other.

The most profound consequence to come from my experience in this unique art program is that I am finding my own artistic and personal identity, my unique expression and the courage to exhibit this.

It is my intention to continue participating in Studio Dax Program and I am grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to continuing my journey as an Artist 🙌

Dorotea Regner

Dax has provided me a place, a sense of belonging, people with the same interests, like-minded people. A place to learn and develop my interest in art. A place where people are creative, kind, considerate, understanding, accepting, and non-judgmental. Thank you kindly Dax.

Liam San Jose

The studio helps me to set my week in a good direction.

Lynne

I believe a huge component of health and happiness is being accepted by other people, being included and feeling like you have something worthwhile to offer the world. Studio Dax helps to level the playing field by providing tutors and mentors and equipment (which I would not be able to afford otherwise), and a safe and challenging environment.

It is difficult to find a program that is person and artist centred. Often groups are large due to a lack of programs and frequently understaffed as there are no guidelines for ratios of participants to staff and are often underfunded.

Studio Dax provides an Art Studio where like-minded artists who are motivated (not just after an activity to fill a day) can learn from, encourage each other, be exposed to new possibilities and hopefully learn tools to further their career.

I have found the Dax studio has challenged me to meet and get to know people who are outside my usual 'circle', and although at times I have felt insecure, I feel accepted and can contribute. I feel a sense of belonging developing. Dax provides an opportunity to share my skills with the 'outside world' and communicate my thoughts and feelings through my art. Our tutor inspires me and helps me to analyse my art and this leads to further understanding of myself.

I can be quite depressed when arriving at art and the focus required takes me outside of myself, uplifts me, stretches, and energises me. It has helped me to find acceptance with my daily changing abilities and explore possible new directions in my work.

Martin Weatherhead

My time at Studio Dax has furnished me with something that had been missing from my life for quite a long time – the opportunity to connect with my creativity within a social context. Sharing a space with other artists, talking about creativity, and setting creative goals has generated an enhanced sense of meaning, and banished the sense of futility and isolation that were difficult to shake after experiencing cognitive changes, compounded by the long months of COVID-19 lockdown.

Michela

Studio Dax is a safe space to explore mediums new to me in a supported environment without the pressures of commercialization.

Steven Groves

The Dax Centre has become a place of rest for my art. Not that the art is dead but all the stuff that comes with living such as doubt, anxiety, fear and stress are widowed from me and my practice rests in peace as I draw at Dax. Dax is a grave space for me.