

CREATIVE COLLECTIVE
*Memory Arts
Project*



CREATIVE COLLECTIVE Memory Arts Project

The Creative Collective Memory Arts Project is an initiative of Geelong Regional Libraries, which brought local artists and communities together to reconnect and honour their unique experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This digital collection features all artworks from the workshop series.

We wish to acknowledge the photographers from local camera clubs Geelong Camera Club and Colac Camera Club, and local photographers, Monika Berry and Christy Harris, who captured the workshops and resulting artwork.

We also wish to acknowledge our partnering organisations who hosted workshops from this series: Bellarine Community Health, headspace Ocean Grove, The fOrT Youth Centre, Meredith Community Centre, Anglesea Art House, Colac Makers' Space, Deans Marsh SPARK!, Queenscliff Town Hall and Diversitat, Northern Community Hub.

The Creative Collective Memory Arts project was funded through the Libraries for Health and Wellbeing Program; an initiative of State Library Victoria (for the Library Board of Victoria) and Public Libraries Victoria under the banner of the Statewide Public Library Development Projects 2020 – 2023.



STATE LIBRARY
VICTORIA



Public Libraries
Victoria



Caroline Hawkins



Samantha Thompson



Jacklyn Foster



Liz McGrath



Justine Martin



Lyn Dickson



Vic Downey



Lara Davies



Xavier McGettigan

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CREATING A SHARED MEMORY MAP OF COVID-19

with Vic Downey

Location: Bellarine Community Health & headspace Ocean Grove

Participants were guided to record a memory of their COVID-19 lived experience, all on a shared canvas. The resulting artwork provides a visual map that connects each member of the group.

Artist, Vic Downey is best known for her colourful and eclectic paintings which convey her deep connection with plants, place, and people. She uses a combination of acrylic, watercolour, pen, and ink to build her artworks over multiple layers in a technique she has developed to convey a sense of depth and deeper meaning within the work.



“ It captures so much of what we’ve all experienced around Covid....masks, QR codes, the teddies in the windows, zoom zoom zoom!!! ”



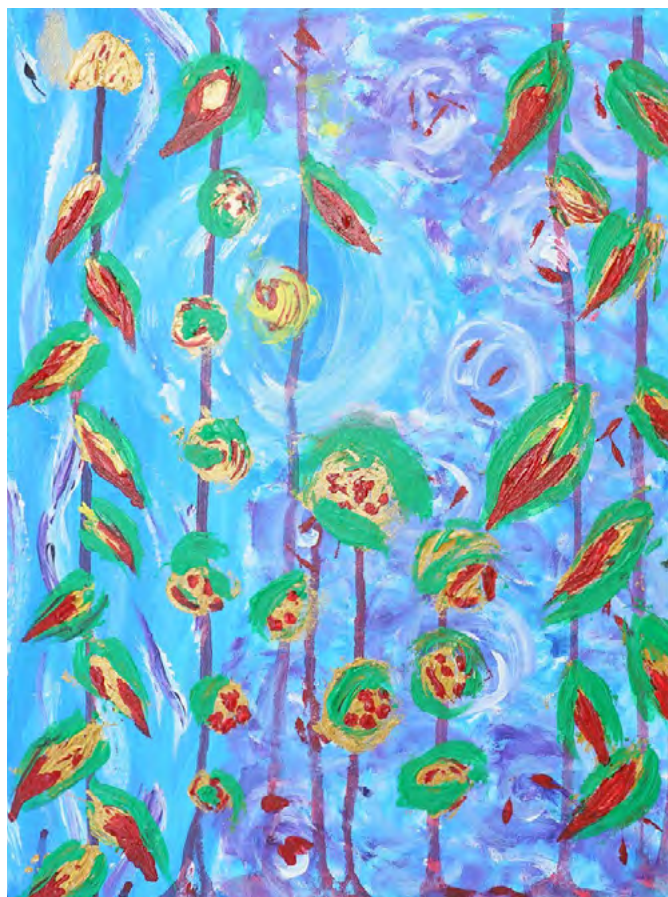
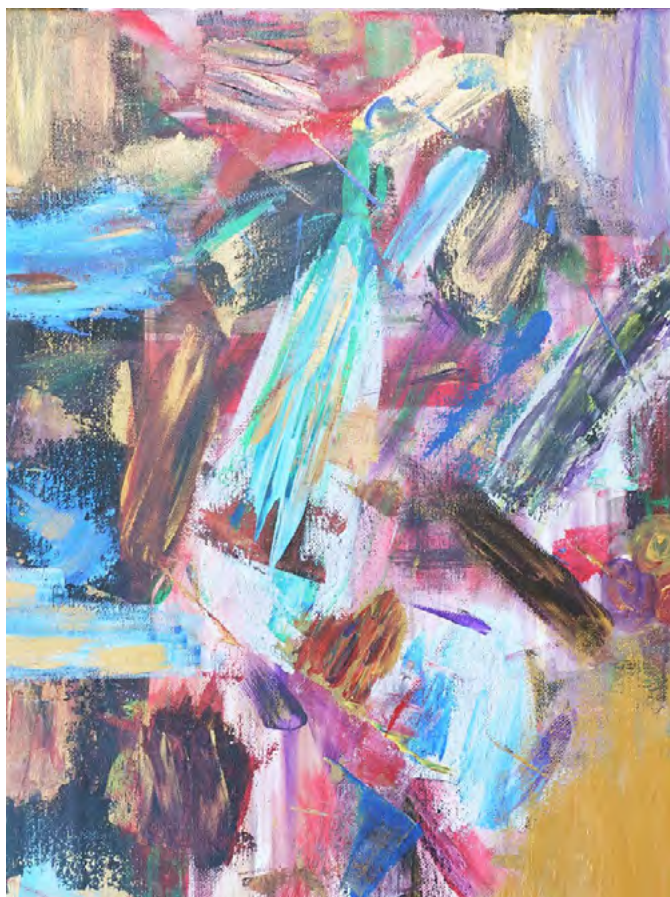
CREATIVE CANVASES

with Jacklyn Foster

Location: The f0rT Youth Centre

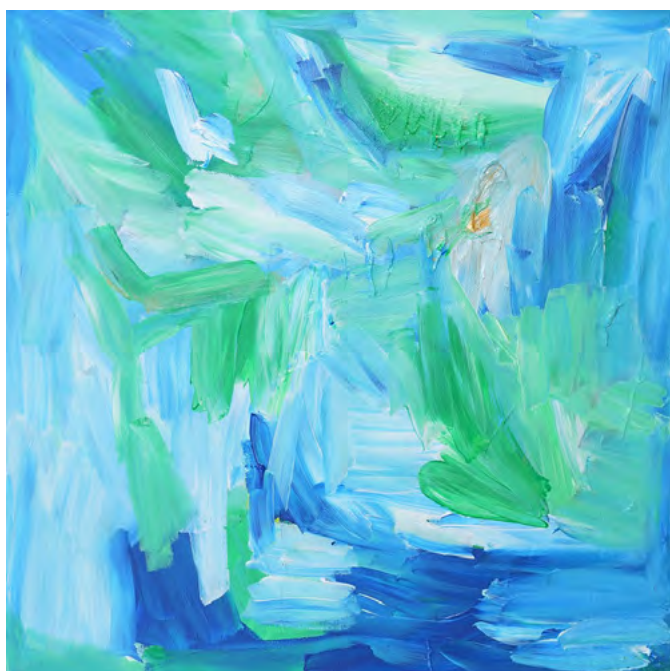
This acrylic based workshop focused on the journey of creating. Mindfulness and meditation were integrated to help each participant create their own individual piece, guided by their own intuition and creativity.

Artist, Jacklyn Foster, is an award-winning, intuitive, mixed media abstract artist who creates contemporary, fun and vibrant still life art.

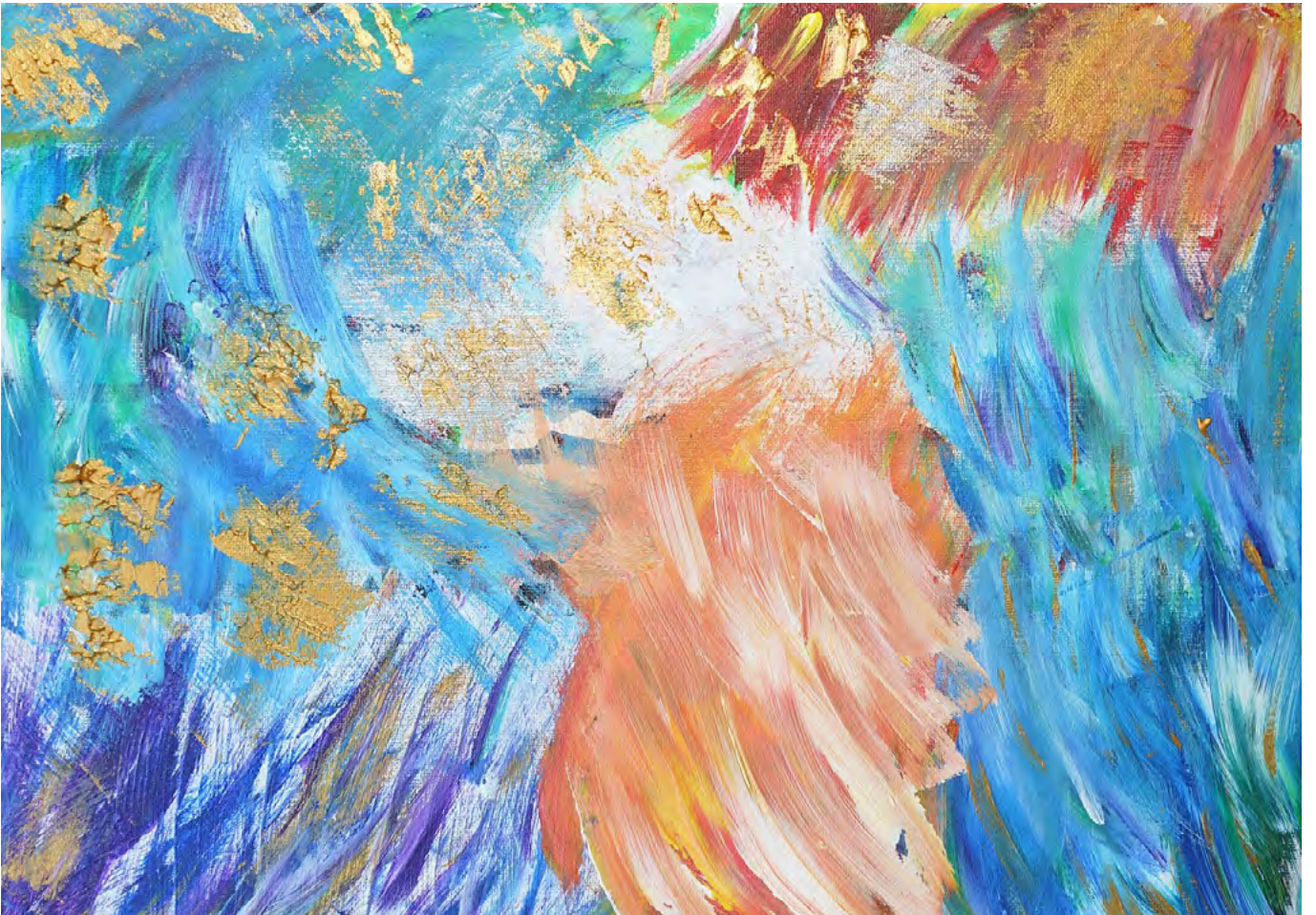


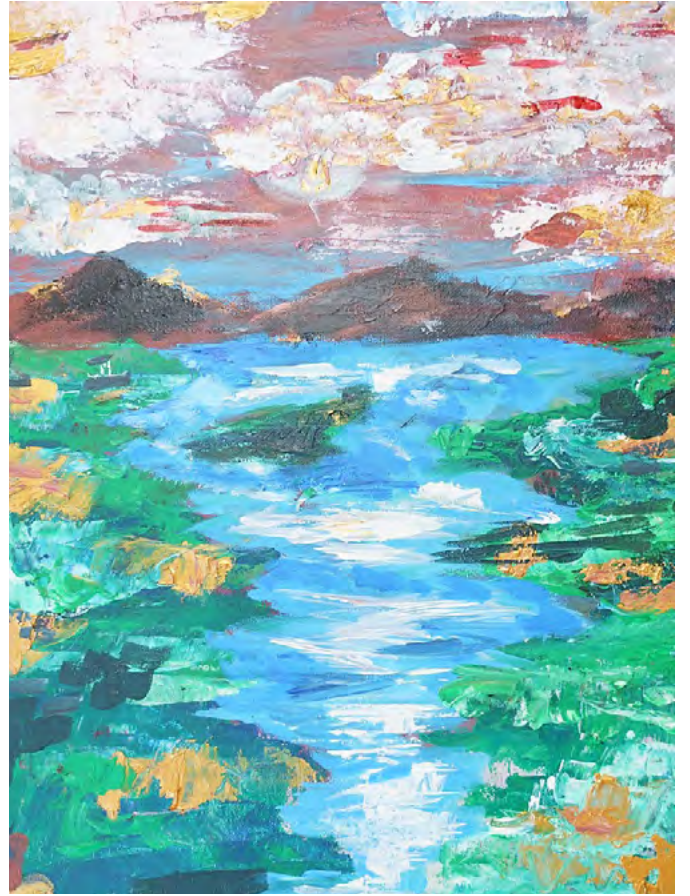
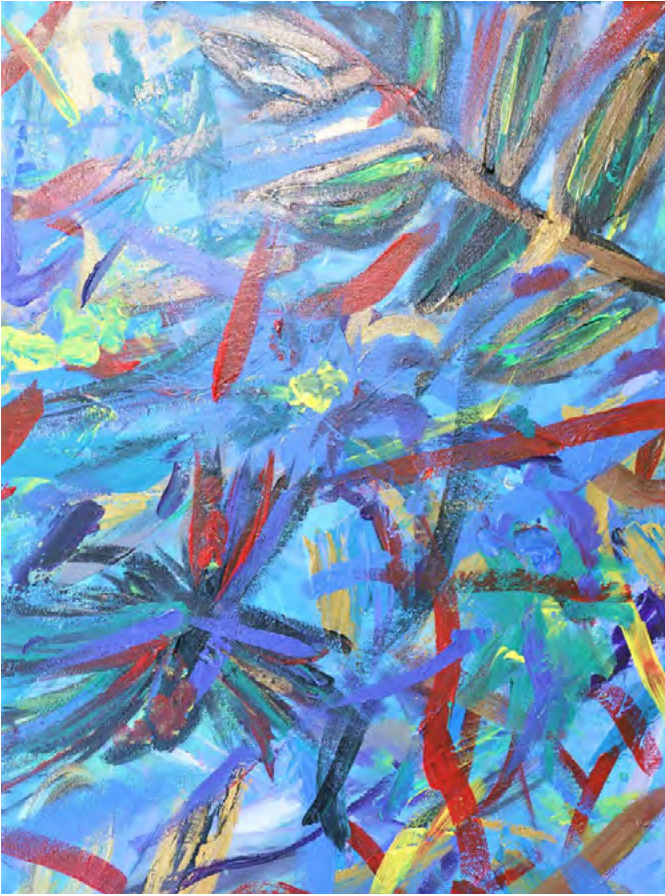
“ The participants were great, and they really enjoyed the activity; it was a lot of fun to watch. ”





“ Had so much fun – the participants were excellent, and it was such a great class. ”







REMIX, RETHINK MIXED MEDIA

with Samantha Thompson

Location: Meredith Community Centre

With a focus on community spirit and resilience, participants learned a variety of mixed media techniques from new and recycled elements.

Artist, Samantha Thompson is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist and regional arts advocate based in regional Victoria. With a highly successful career spanning over 20 years, she is renowned for her vibrant, feminist artworks. She has exhibited in numerous galleries across Australia and internationally and produced 14 solo shows.



“Lovely light environment – Creative atmosphere – Samantha offered gentle guidance in a positive and encouraging way. Wonderful afternoon.”





“ The class was stimulating and enjoyable – I gained lots of ideas from the facilitator and participants. ”



RANDOM WEAVING

with Caroline Hawkins

Location: Anglesea Art House

Participants were guided to create a random weave cocoon using natural materials. As their structures developed, they wove and lined their creations in a nesting fashion. The technique required a balance of manipulation of the natural materials versus acceptance of the direction the material took.

Caroline Hawkins work encompasses wrapped textiles and structural weaving techniques to create organic sculptural forms which borrow from methods used by basket weavers. A key feature of Caroline's work is plant fibres. The process of gathering and sourcing these fibres provide her with a unique connection to nature, which in turn informs her subject matter, from delicate wrapped native animals and birds to woven sculptural vessels.



“ So great to reflect on lockdowns and create a woven artwork using Caroline’s limitless bits and pieces of trees, fabric, string, stones and more. ”





“ Had a lovely day exploring something new with a lovely bunch of creative people – Too much fun. ”





“Great to be sharing stories and ideas with others.”



AFTER THE BEFORE TIMES: A DANCE EXPLORATION OF LOCKDOWN

with Xavier McGettigan

Location: Queenscliff Town Hall

Workshop participants were guided through a choreographic and improvisation process where they explored and expressed their individual COVID-19 experience.

With a focus on positivity and inclusion, the workshop explored the difficulties, the successes, humorous moments and more through dance.

Click [here](#) to view a short dance video of the final composition.

Xavier McGettigan is a freelance choreographer, dancer, actor and musician. He is Director of Attitude Dance Company and has choreographed and directed multiple productions for the company as well as choreographed extensively for musical theatre.



“ Didn’t know much about it but really glad I came. Out of my comfort zone into a new zone! Great 4 hours thank you. ”



“ Xave was awesome, so inclusive of all. I’d love to see more dance workshops organised by the GRLC throughout Geelong. ”



“ Xavier McGettigan was an outstanding dance instructor who made all of us feel at ease and capable. I really enjoyed this workshop. ”



MEMORY BOOKLETS

with Lyn Dickson

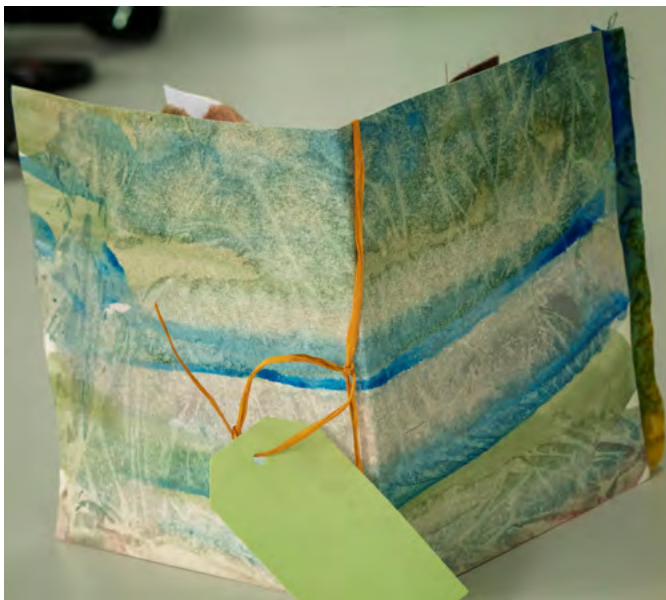
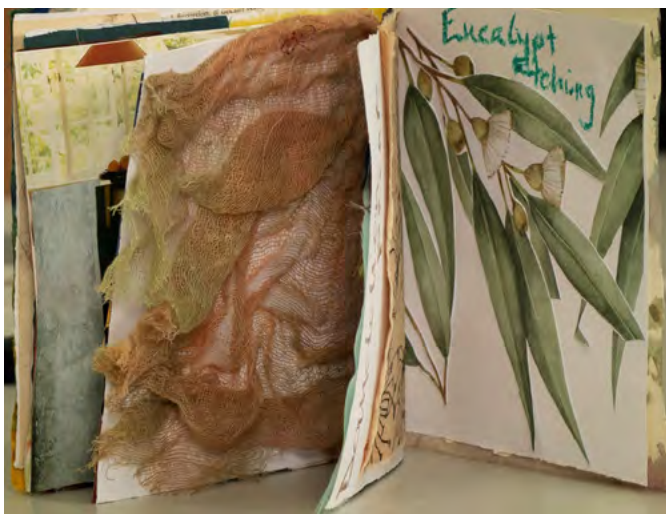
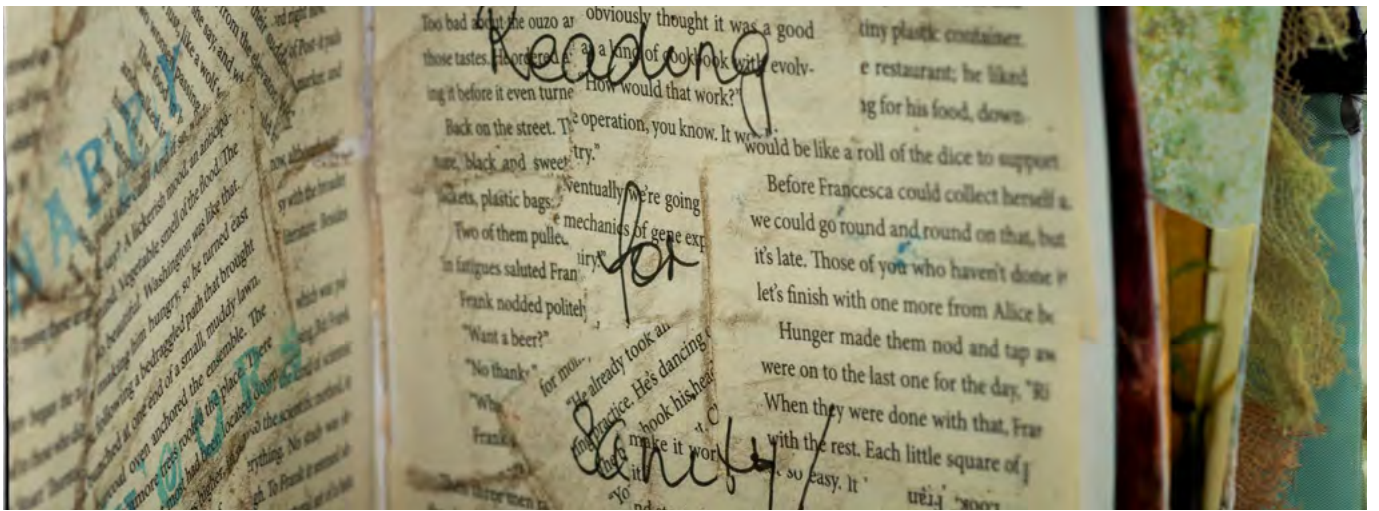
Location: Colac Makers' Space

This workshop explored the art of book making and focused on recalling activities pursued during the COVID-19 pandemic. It used various techniques and materials to create a booklet filled with each participants memories.

Lyn Dickson is a self-taught artist and has been practising a variety of artistic pursuits over many years, attending different workshops and learning from local and overseas tutors.

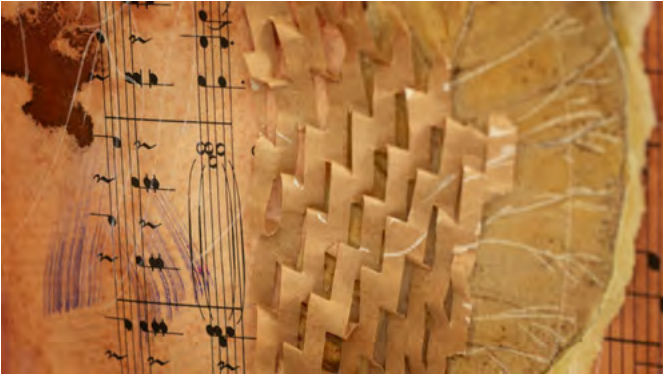


“ Excellent workshop. Great guidance and inspirational. Helped to gather feelings about Covid. ”





“ A wonderful workshop with an inspiring, creative artist who shared her knowledge and ideas with all participants. Thank you Lyn for a wonderful day. ”



“Enjoyable thought provoking – encouraged discussion and explanation of materials.”













COLOURING IN POSTER

with Lara Davies

Location: Deans Marsh SPARK!

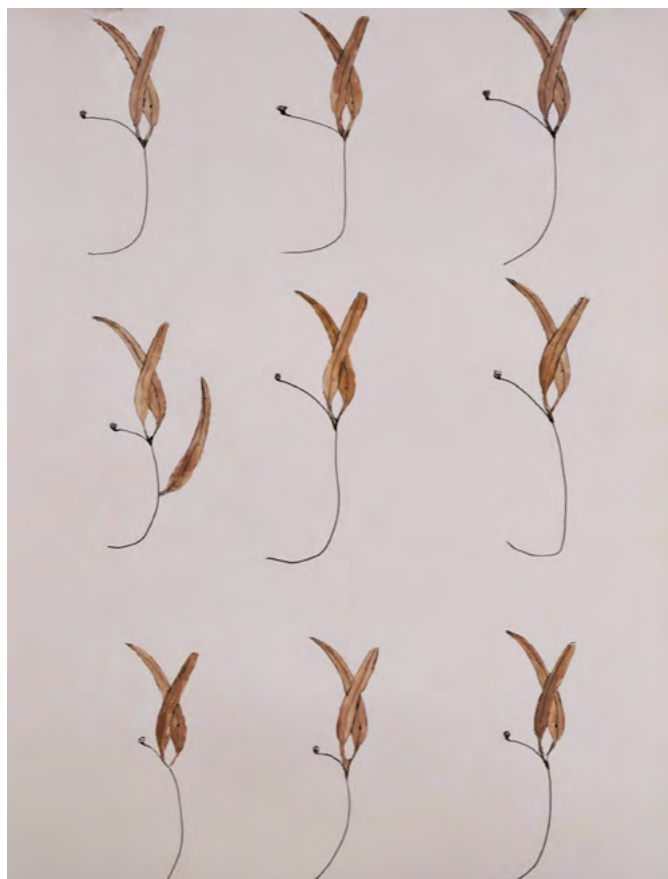
Using drawing, tracing, painting, and illustrative techniques, participants created a colouring in poster that explored and recorded the natural, built, and social world around them and celebrated the things that brought happiness in difficult times.

Lara Davies originally studied a B.A of Fine Art at RMIT university, studying in the Drawing Department of the Art School. She likes to draw, paint, take photos, design prints and teach art. For the past 13 years she has been teaching people drawing, textile design and screen printing as one half of Homework.



“ It was such a lovely day to work with such supportive people. The group was just the right size to share the experience with. Lara was wonderful and guided us all thoughtfully and at the right level. ”





“Awesome day. Learnt so much about technique. Lara broke down the skillsets needed and very approachable.”

“I enjoyed the day of artworks. I was encouraged to extend my skills.”



CELEBRATE THE EVERYDAY THROUGH SKETCHES

with Liz McGrath

Location: Newcomb Library

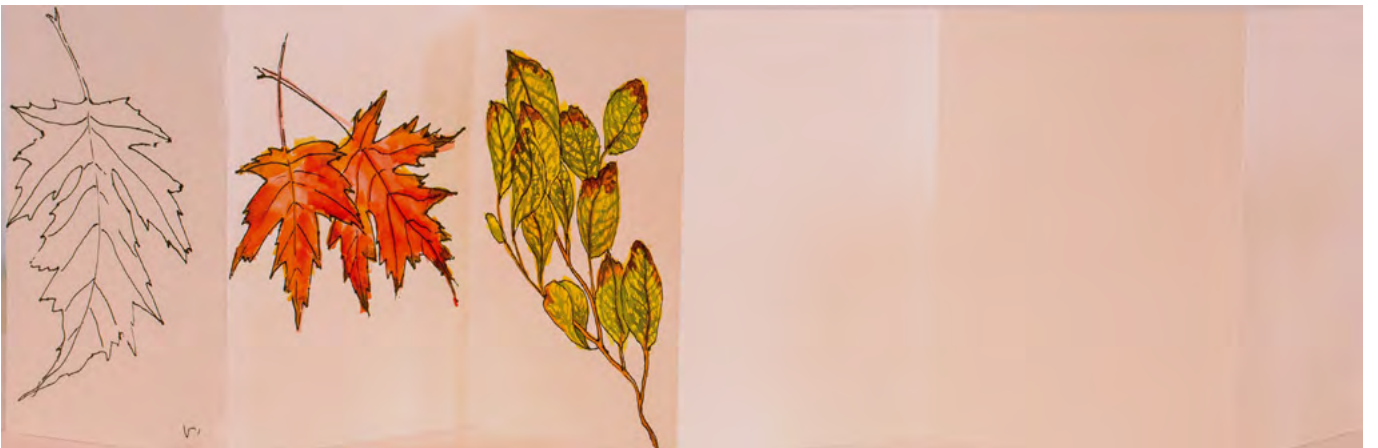
This workshop explored the basics of sketching with ink and watercolour. Participants created a memory of their COVID-19 experience using everyday sketching techniques and were invited to make drawings that celebrated simple objects, scenes, and moments from their life.

Liz McGrath is a local artist, illustrator and teacher who works on programs and projects through the Geelong region. Since early 2020 Liz has created an observational sketch from life every day as part of her @everydaylizmc project, sharing them on Instagram as an expression of gratitude. A selection of these sketches was acquired by the Melbourne Museum, now included in their permanent collection as an insight into one family's experience of the pandemic.



“ Really fun – lovely bunch of participants, room was nice and bright and the materials all worked well. ”





“ Participants were inspired to continue painting at home. ”







FINGER PAINTING FOR GROWN UPS

with Justine Martin

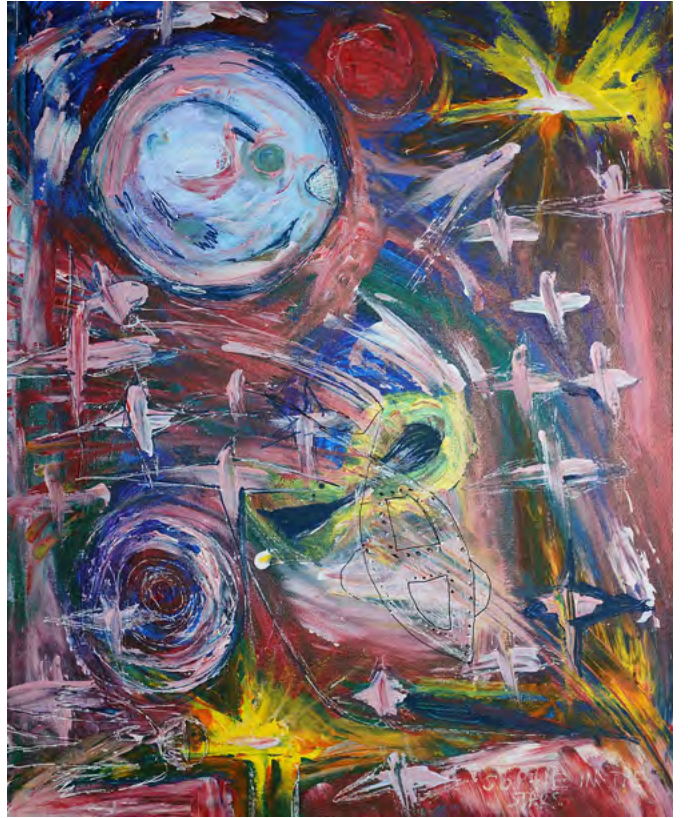
Location: Diversitat, Northern Community Hub

Exploring the use of bright colours and words, participants used their fingers to capture and express how they felt through the years of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A multi-award-winning artist, Justine Martin runs wellness and art therapy classes. She is also a resilience consultant and speaker, plus an advocate for medical care. Justine uses her own experiences living with a disability to encourage others to take steps towards a positive future – by finding hope, overcoming adversity, and building resilience.



“ Good mindfulness exercise. I found the art session to be very interesting. A new skill which has been revitalised from the past. Thank you! ”





“ A lovely class, a great teacher, very happy get together – thanks. ”





*“ Felt very included,
no judgements.
I think everyone
enjoyed the class. ”*



CELEBRATE THE EVERYDAY THROUGH SKETCHES

with Liz McGrath

Location: Leopold Library



“ The artwork was very mindful. I enjoy all the art projects that the library run. ”





“ I loved it. I’m inspired and will continue experimenting with sketching and watercolour. ”



“ So creative and easy to dive into. Lovely to share ideas and creations with others. ”





REMIX, RETHINK MIXED MEDIA

with Samantha Thompson

Location: Geelong Library and Heritage Centre [The Dome]



“Loved it: It made me feel so alive with all the people here, so beautiful and friendly.”

“Enjoyable session doing something out of my comfort zone.”





“ Enjoyed this creative workshop, great to be out, about and being creative – thank you. ”

“ Excellent introduction to experimenting in new media of art! ”

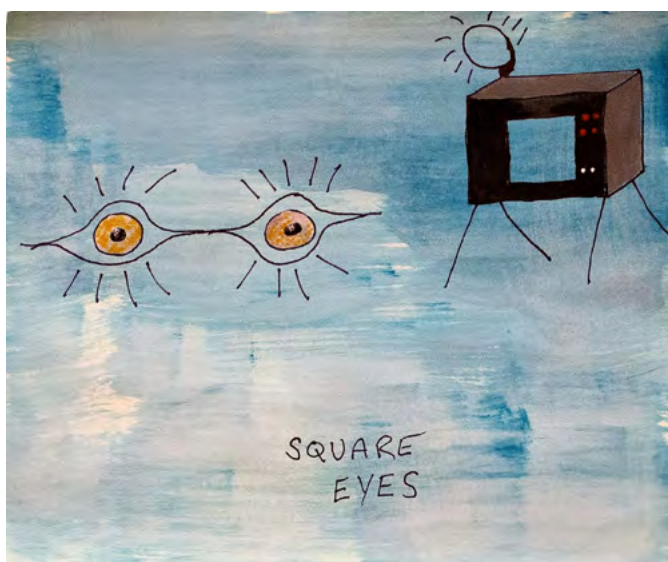


PAINTING COVID-19 MEMORY MAPS

with Vic Downey

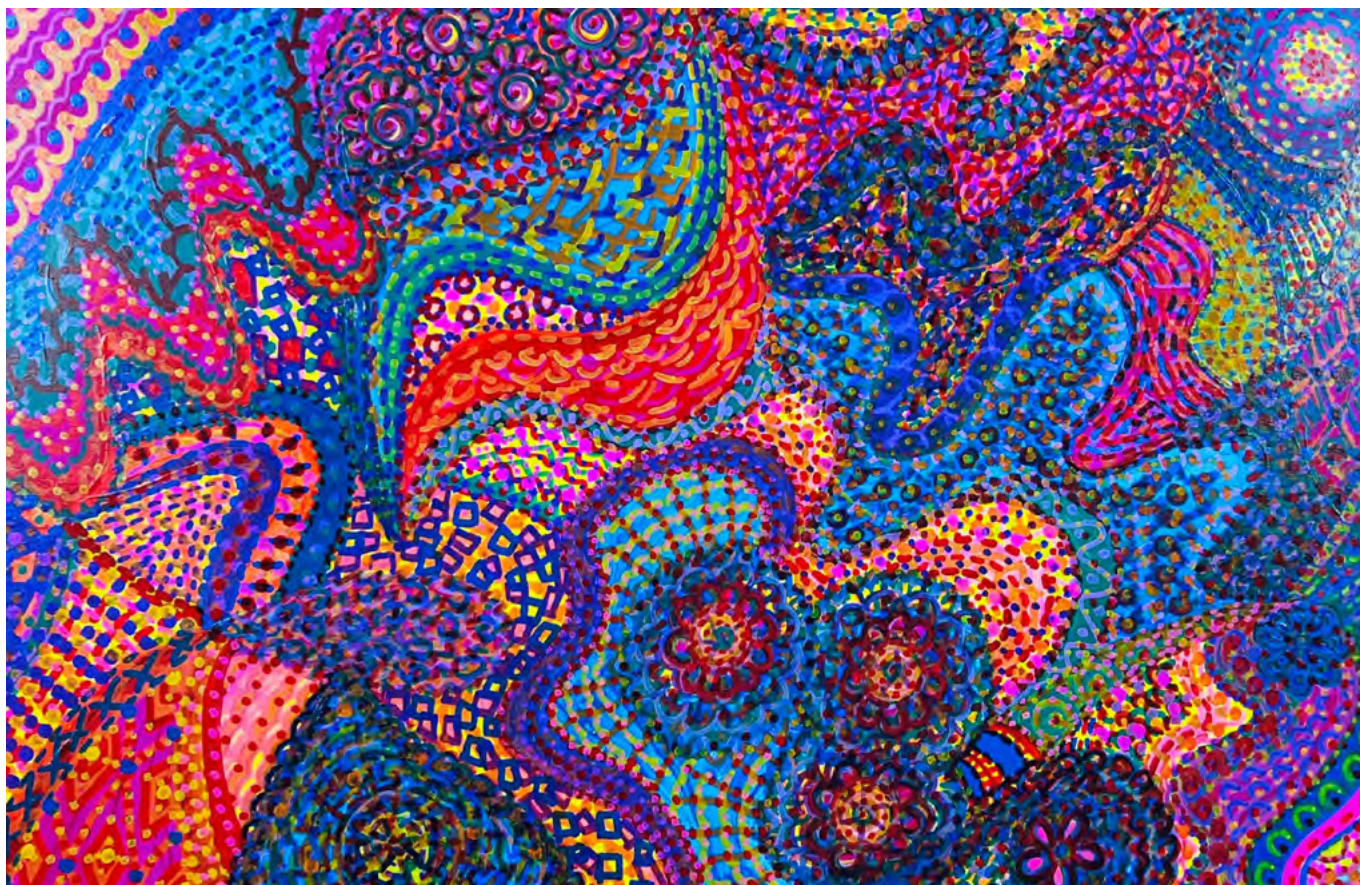
Location: Corio Library

In this workshop participants were guided to record and paint a memory of their COVID-19 lived experience. The individual pieces were then used to inspire a large canvas, acting as a visual memory map, representing the collective and connected artmaking process.

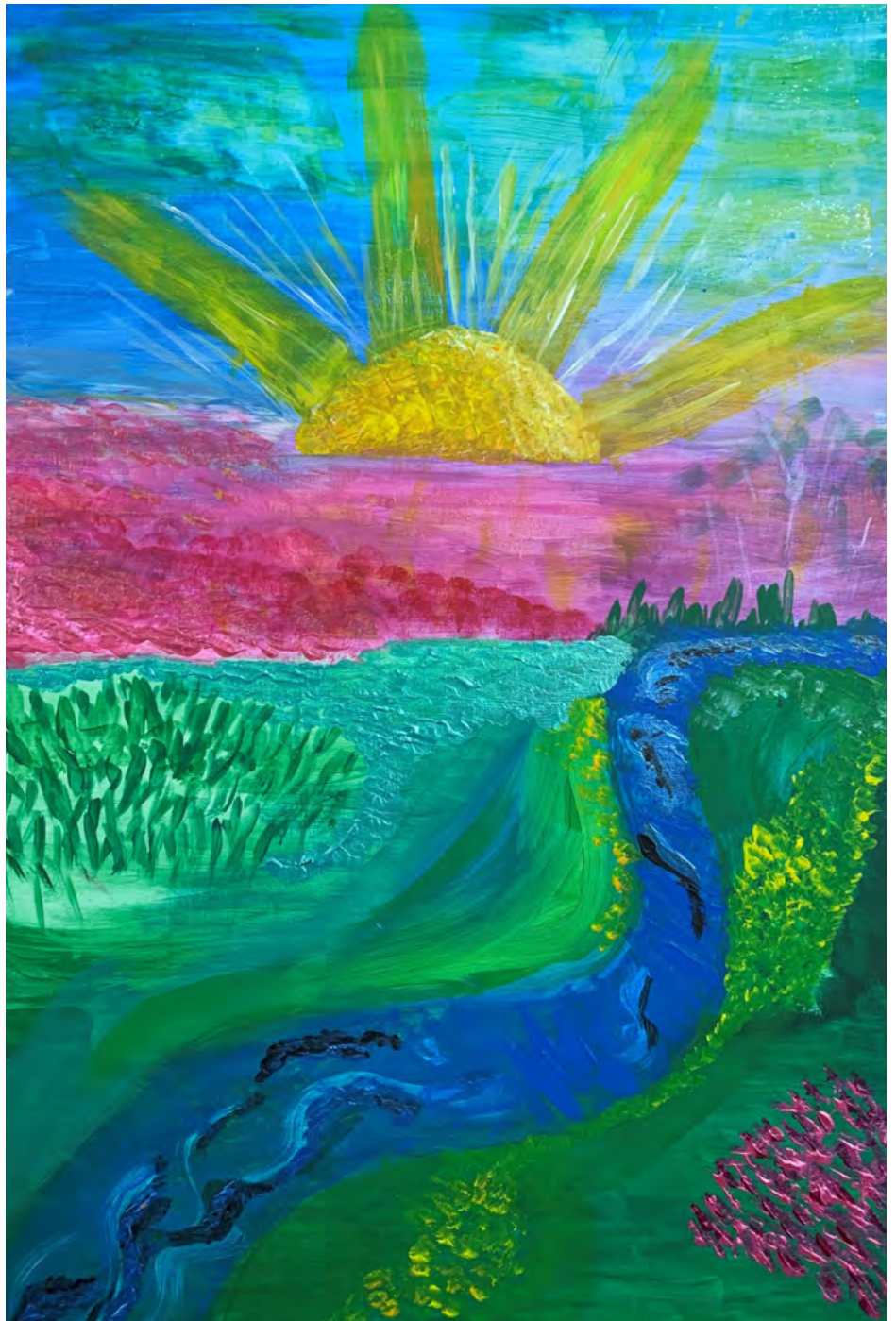


“ Both the facilitator and photographer were very welcoming and encouraging. Please put on more of similar workshops like these. ”

“ A great group – lots of chats and laughs. ”



“ Had a wonderful time. Keep doing these type of classes. Excellent!! ”



“ I enjoyed this workshop. Vic explained the criteria, Vic was helpful with good advice. Thanks. ”



CREATIVE CANVASES

with Jacklyn Foster

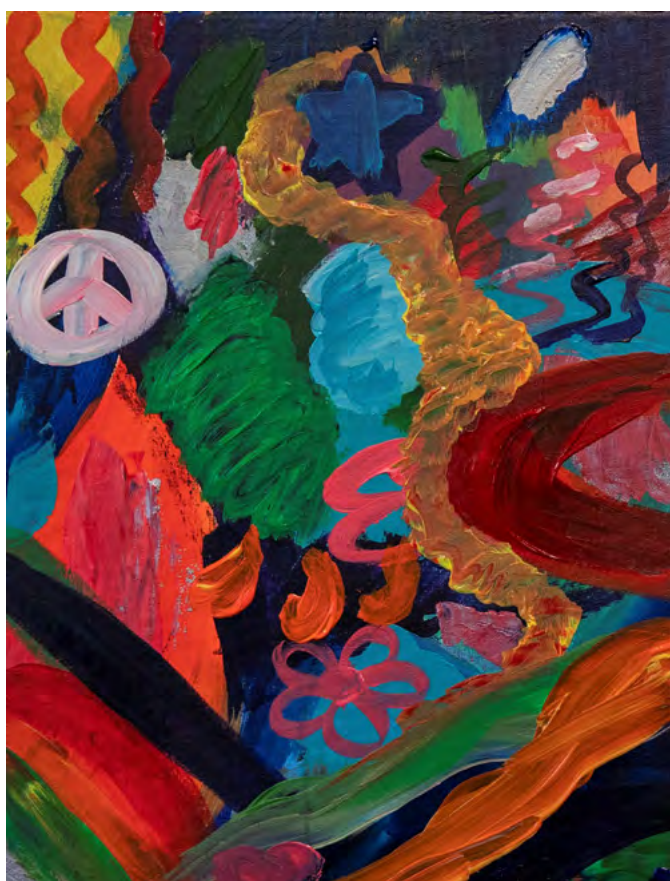
Location: Colac Library



“ It was fun. I liked trying different things and learning new skill. I enjoyed seeing other people’s perspective on things. ”



“ It was really fun and I learnt so much about the different types of art brushes. ”



“ Really fun and engaging! Loved it! Learnt and experimented with different techniques. ”



RANDOM WEAVING

with Caroline Hawkins

Location: Bannockburn Library



“ A great experience. More to the activity than meets the eye – lots of opportunity to remember and reflect. ”



“Lovely experience. Intriguing and inspiring how to create from a vine.”



“ As the works came together there was lots of chatter and lovely buzz of people enjoying their creativity, with quite a mix of completed cocoons. ”



REMIX, RETHINK MIXED MEDIA

with Samantha Thompson

Location: Waurm Ponds Library



“ Outstanding artist facilitator; wonderful materials and space. Thank you so much. ”

“ What a wonderful resource workshop I was lucky enough to hear about and attend and enjoy. It felt like a lovely free play experience, with just the right amount of inspiration and direction given by the lovely Samantha. ”



“ I really enjoyed being able to experiment with different inky paints, pencils etc. And being encouraged to try different things with likeminded people. ”



“ Completely out of my comfort zone but Samantha was an excellent tutor – 10/10 workshop. ”

“ Came with no expectations and not a lot of knowledge but I am very proud of the final outcome. Samantha was encouraging and told me to believe on the process! Thank you, you are amazing Samantha. ”





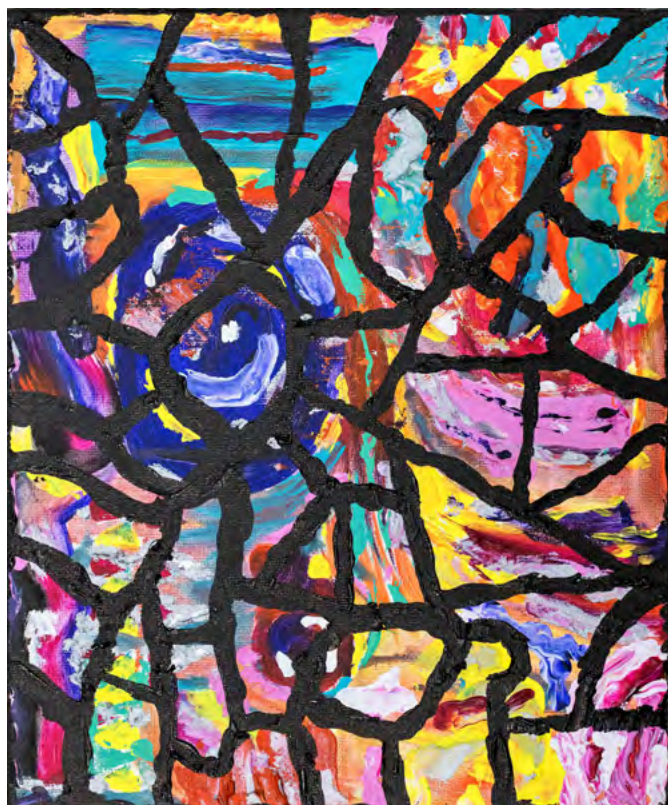
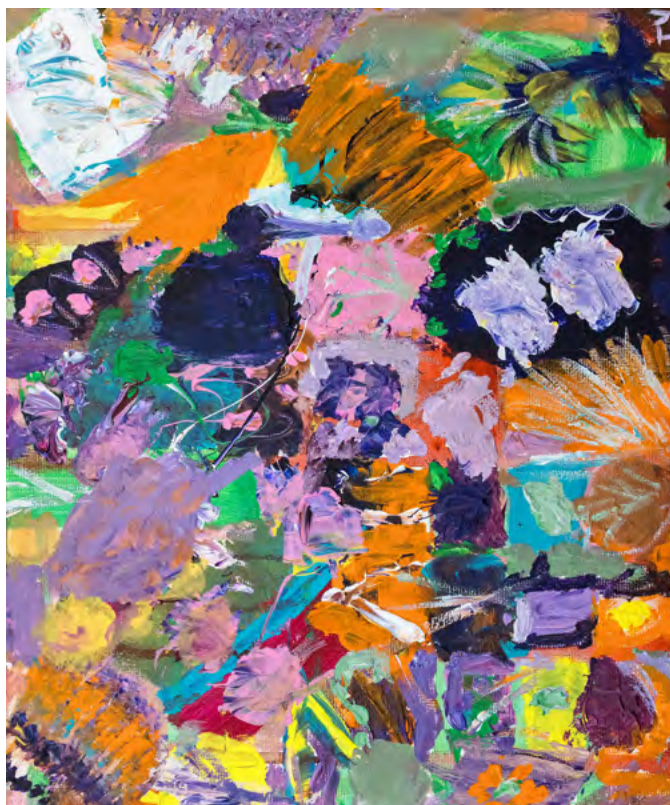
CREATIVE CANVASES

with Jacklyn Foster

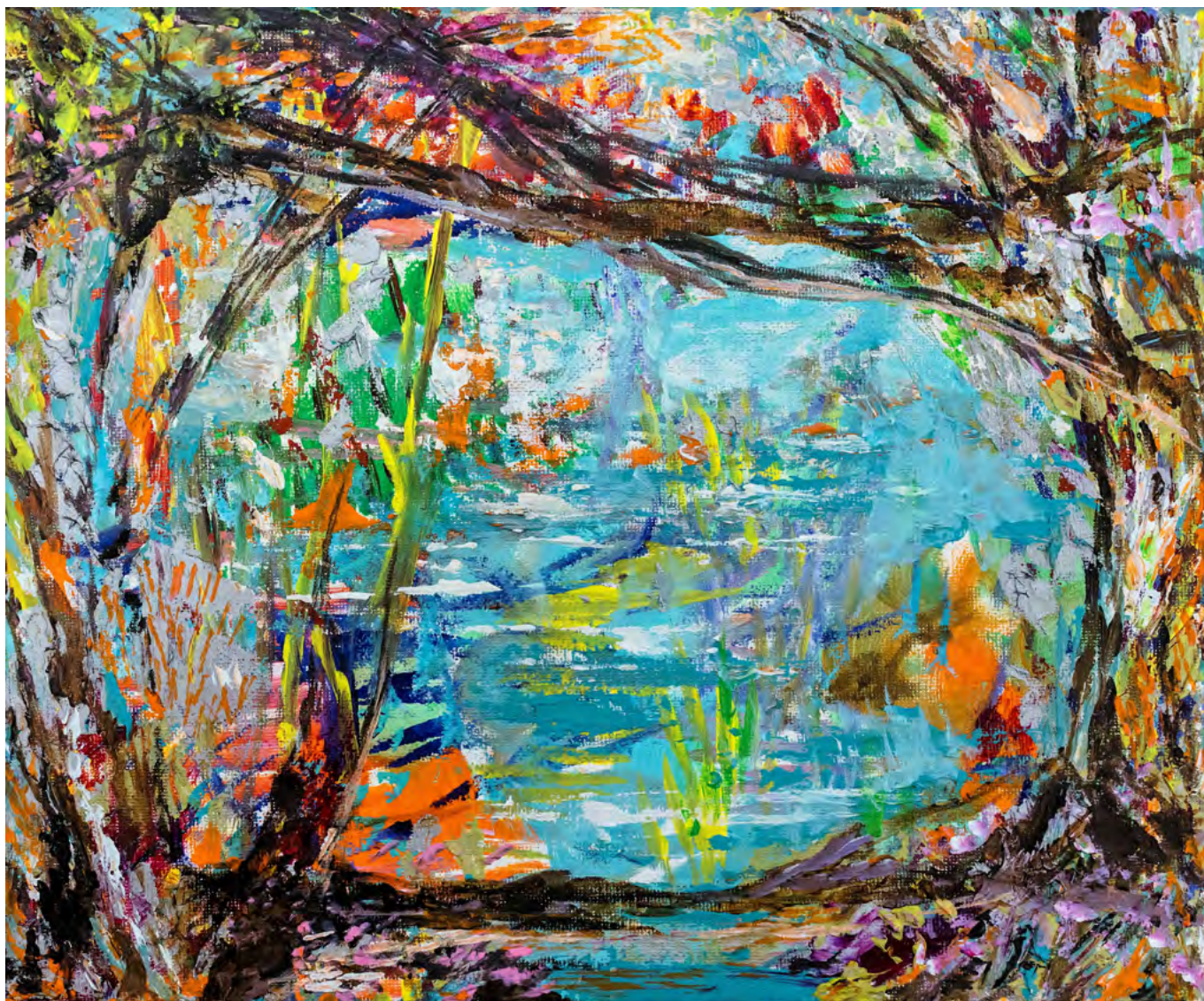
Location: Newcomb Library



“ Was such a fun creative experience. Jackie was so kind and patient and I learned so much, thanks Jackie!! What a wonderful thing to provide for the community. ”



“ Jacklyn Foster was very welcoming and encouraging facilitator/artist who made the workshop fun and brought out the creative tendencies in all of us. Thank you!!! ”



“ *Lovely opportunity to learn about colour, texture and shape. Awesome shared experience! Thank you for the environment to play!* ”



“ I came specifically to get out of the house and mix with people. Very therapeutic and fun. ”



“ Fabulous to escape reality and play with some new techniques, without expectation in an encouraging environment and tutor! ”





RANDOM WEAVING

with Caroline Hawkins

Location: Colac Library



“ Wonderful workshop.
Enjoyed learning
to be creative with
really nice people.
Thank you Caroline
and GRLC. ”

“ Fabulous! Great
therapy. ”



“ A wonderful opportunity to be creative with nature, meet lovely people, share our Covid experiences. Caroline was a wonderful teacher – thank you for the opportunity. ”



“ Was a lovely day learning and letting our creativity loose to eventually make a beautiful piece of artwork. ”



“ Very inspiring and a fabulous opportunity to do something like this locally. ”



CELEBRATE THE EVERYDAY THROUGH SKETCHES

with Liz McGrath

Location: Belmont Library



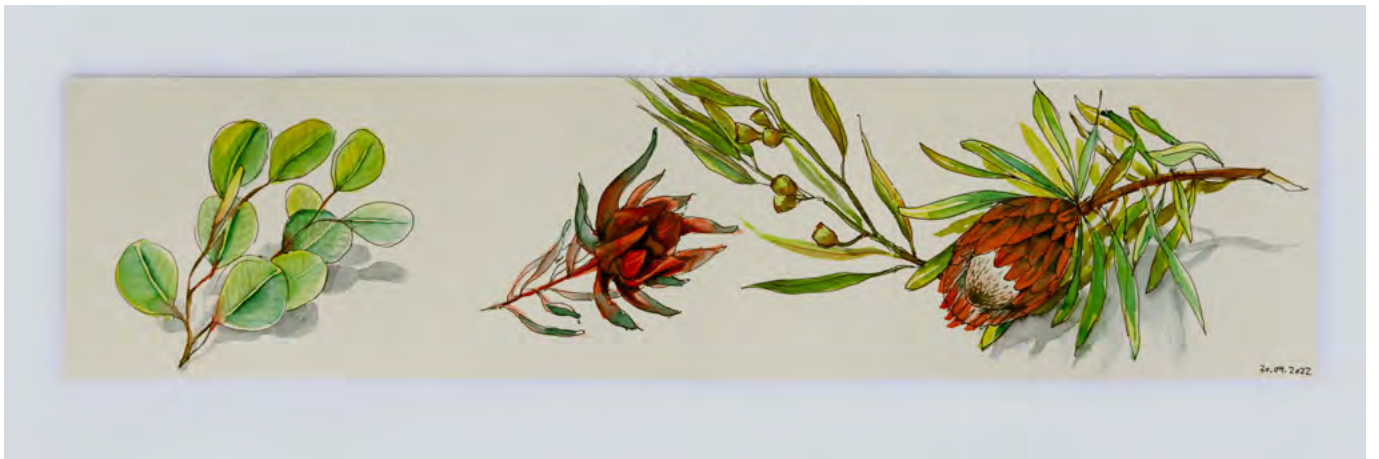
“ I am so grateful to have been here today. Liz is so encouraging, so supportive. I would love to do more. ”



“*Fantastic opportunity for people in the community to come together in creative and very pleasurable space. Thanks Liz and GRL.*”



“ Fantastic workshop learning to get the essence of the subject. Great for mindfulness, Presenter was very clear, nurturing and encouraging. ”



“ I really enjoyed this workshop. I got many ideas of what will work for me as a disabled person. Liz made it seem easy and fun. ”



“ I enjoy the mindfulness part of this artwork. This is good for my mental health and therapeutic inclusion in my day. I look forward to more of these sessions! Thanks!” ”

