Art from the heart of the Cross.

2019 exhibition by the artists of the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre
“In our day-to-day work at Uniting MSIC, we delight in interacting with an enormous variety of people. The annual art project just adds another special dimension. To support all this creative expression, and then see the framed results hanging in a gallery, makes me appreciate how much there is to unite us all.”

Dr Marianne Jauncey
Medical Director of Uniting MSIC
Art that speaks from the heart.

Welcome

Art from the heart of the Cross is an annual exhibition showcasing the diverse artistic talents of people who visit the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC).

Established in 2001, in the heart of Sydney’s Kings Cross, Uniting MSIC was the first supervised injecting centre in the Southern Hemisphere and the English-speaking world. Since then, we’ve been providing safe and compassionate care for some of the most marginalised and disenfranchised members of our community.

Uniting MSIC is a place where people can use drugs under the supervision of medical staff and health professionals, with the provision of emergency care if required, and access to broader health services including pathways to treatment and rehabilitation. We take the time to build relationships, so that people know we’re here when they’re ready and able to seek support.

Every year the centre also runs a 4-week art project, giving clients the opportunity to express themselves and their circumstances creatively. An empowering aspect of the project is the public display and silent auction of artworks in the Art from the heart of the Cross exhibition.

Now in its 9th year, everyone is welcome at this powerful and thought-provoking exhibition, and everyone is invited to bid at the silent auction.

All proceeds go directly to the artists. Art from the heart of the Cross is a not-for-profit initiative of Uniting MSIC.

Find out how to buy the artworks on the back page of this catalogue.

EXHIBITION LAUNCH
23 November 2-4pm
Venue: 107 Projects
107 Redfern St, Redfern

EXHIBITION SHOWING
20 November – 1 December
11am-5pm, Tuesday – Sunday
Venue: 107 Projects
107 Redfern St, Redfern

ONLINE BIDDING CLOSES
7 December
001. **Untitled**  
Adam  
Acrylic on canvas  
50 x 50 cm

002. **Untitled**  
Alitisa  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 20 cm

003. **4 my Kyrran**  
Alitisa  
Acrylic on canvas  
50 x 50 cm

004. **Untitled**  
Andrew  
Paint pen  
on canvas  
30 x 40 cm

005. **Alone in my Dome**  
Anonymous  
Felt pen on canvas  
30 x 40 cm
I wanted to try some art, one of the workers gave me the newspaper which had the story about a cocaine bust. I thought it would be fun to think how much money is made from selling coke-a-cola. Staff suggested doing some more and so I had another go and that just using pencils and talking to others doing some painting, it felt real good.
010.
**Storm of Emotions**  
Celine  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 20 cm  
One minute I’m sitting down laughing, cracking jokes and mucking around with friends and family. I could even be out doing some shopping or even a night at the movies. When the unexpected emotional storm hits... Die bitch die!

011.
**Untitled**  
Chase  
Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46 cm

012.
**Is it or isn’t it taken by respect?**  
Cyndell  
Acrylic on canvas  
30 x 40 cm

013.
**Traces**  
Cyndell  
Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46 cm  
Where I come from, up there. We are humans on earth but up there we could be anything, a symbol, a star. In the pistol of life, with your other traces from all around the world, starting from the big bang. I wish that my children would start maturing and help me organise the track of life.
014. 
**Untitled**  
DKLINE  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 20 cm

015. 
**EKS5635**  
EKS5635  
Acrylic and permanent marker on canvas  
20 x 20 cm  
*Humble heroes sticking up for the weak, without looking for credit.*

016. 
**The Six Points of Reference**  
EKS5635  
Acrylic and paint pen on canvas  
20 x 20 cm  
*It is representative of us as fourth dimensional beings, understanding our place in time and space.*

017. 
**Kaos**  
Greg  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 20 cm
The story of the heart is without a soul – it is empty and lonely and has nowhere to go. A heart that builds for itself is an eternal light that always stays bright. A heart that loves is the heart that goes on for ever and ever and ever. Some hearts do hold the power for magic.

Out of space. It’s a time warp with thousands of little midgybites. It’s too far away for it to know anything about Earth.

The little boy Astro had gone to the Milky Way and he went around to Venus and then he ended up on Mars. Mars is another planet away and it’s got apes living like people. It was a dream of his to arrive on Earth so he could be around other people.
023. Squity Soil
Heidi
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40 cm

024. Shingling Feelings
Heidi
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm

My friends and I hang out and we like to go to the movies, we love McDonald’s thick shakes and we like Aladdin. Aladdin found a genie without realising he had found a genie. The rules of a genie are that he can’t bring anyone back to life and you cannot cease someone’s life. There were also many crystals and a big crystal had trapped the magic carpet and the nasty men were trying to get him trapped inside because they wouldn’t give him the lantern.

025. Creation
Heidi
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm

I had woken up and I found myself in a tropical island and what I could see around me was a pond with many fish and they were tropical.

026. Shades of Colour
Heidi
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm

027. Abstract
Heidi
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 cm
028. Solar System Creation Epic
Hermes
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm

029. Natural Mystic
Hermes
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40 cm

030. Cellular Connections
Hermes
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm
We are all connected through vibrations.

031. Nine Galaxies
Hermes
Acrylic and paint pen on canvas
30 x 40 cm
Symbolising infinity, the birth and death of a star leading to the creation of a planet.
(Full story page 28)

032. Guban- Sacred Eel
Hermes
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 20 cm
Elders said you can’t eat the biggest eels because they are responsible for keeping the aquifers and the springs running.

033. Third Eye
Hermes
Acrylic and pen on canvas
29 x 22 cm
034. Sucks2BU
James
Oil on canvas
50 x 50 cm
Evil scarecrow.
Tribute to a loved one.

035. Death by Gecko
James
Oil on canvas
30 x 40 cm

036. Bush in July
James Smile
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm

037. Runaround
Jenny
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm

038. Joy
Jenny
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm

I have no artistic skills whatsoever but thought I would give it a go anyway. If you never never go you will never never know!! I like this painting because the paint did what I wanted it to (as well as painting a couple of people that were in the room). This painting gives me a feeling of joy, so I would like to give you a feeling of joy also.
039. Bird
John
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 cm
I did this over 4 days. At first it started with the water, sky and ground. Over the days I just painted what emerged from memories from my childhood, and I placed people, a tree. The bird, the bird nest and its babies came last. So I called it Bird.

040. Say No to Crack
Julio
Acrylic on paper bag
40.5 x 57.5 cm

041. Explosive
Julio
Mixed media, paint on paper bag
41 x 61 cm

042. My Crazy Life
Katie
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm
Due to events in my life recently I have been pretty blue, a lot of tears shed! The red represents the hurt, anger and blood shed in past relationships!
(Full story page 28)

043. Rock Girl Power
Kirsty
Acrylic and texta on canvas
20 x 20 cm
044. Letter to Letters  
Kittisak  
Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46 cm

045. Untitled  
Kyrnan  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 20 cm

046. For my Darling  
Kyrnan  
Acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46 cm

047. Land of Dreams  
Lani  
Acrylic on canvas  
30 x 40 cm
048. **Insane Work**  
Leal  
Texta, acrylic and pen on canvas  
50 x 50 cm  
*These works are dedicated to my sons Jason and Jaxson.*

049. **Insane**  
Leal  
Acrylic and paint pen on canvas  
30 x 40 cm

050. **Insane2**  
Leal  
Acrylic, paint pen, texta on canvas  
50 x 50 cm
051. **Insane3**
Leal
Acrylic, texta, paint pen on canvas
20 x 20 cm

052. **Insane4**
Leal
Acrylic, texta, paint pen on canvas
20 x 20 cm

053. **Insane7**
Leal
Acrylic and paint pen on cardboard
96.5 x 28 cm

054. **Leal’s Sick Pic**
Leal
Acrylic, texta, whiteout and paint pen on canvas
30 x 40 cm
In the last 6 years, addiction and the associated lifestyle have transformed my life and my self in ways I could not have imagined. I have lost everything; homeless, incarcerated, a source of pain to my family, the list goes on. By chance I discovered an absolute passion – obsession – love of abstract art – it is my lifeline to the possibility of a different life. The fact that buying art supplies takes priority over buying drugs says it all! In the process of making these abstract pieces I enter a flow state – the very type of state I chase (but never get) with drugs. I am so grateful that Uniting MSIC provides this opportunity to present our works. It’s a wonderful service run by compassionate, broad-thinking people. Megan Moses
061. 
Narcotic Uber 
Ticket To Heaven 
Melissa 
Acrylic on canvas 
46 x 46 cm

062. 
Untitled 
Mortisha 
Acrylic on canvas 
30 x 40 cm

063. 
5th Element 
MX 
Acrylic on canvas 
30 x 40 cm

064. 
Painting 
Nadine 
Acrylic on canvas 
20 x 20 cm
065.
GBI
Nico
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm
*In an attempt to survive, this boy became a professional artist.*

066.
GHB
Nico
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm
*The knowledge of good and evil.*

067.
Always Was Always Will Be
Paul
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40 cm

068.
Landscapes of the Soul
Rae
Mud on canvas
22.5 x 30 cm
069. Transition
Russ
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 cm
The second one is a transition, an evolution of creative spirit.

070. The Room Comp #2
Russ
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm
It’s an abstract done over a short period of time, inspired by those around me in Stage 3 at MSIC and everyone’s creativity. The painting is on both sides, turn around the other way for the secret message. My style is a fusion of abstract expressionism and visionary art and I try to be as unique as possible. I actually got sick and have been unhealthy for a while and this is the second painting I have produced in two years. The first one sold and inspired me to get back into the world of art after taking a hiatus for healing purposes.

071. Monavark
Shane
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 cm
Not for sale
072. Unknown 2019
Sienna Chevrolet
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40 cm

073. 3, 2, 1 (a)
Sienna Chevrolet
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm

074. 3, 2, 1 (b)
Sienna Chevrolet
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm

075. 3, 2, 1 (c)
Sienna Chevrolet
Acrylic on canvas
20 x 20 cm

076. Connection
Sienna Chevrolet
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40 cm

Shit – I’m here.
i wish I was already
tomorrow mourning.
077. Don’t Speak? Really?!  
Sienna Chevrolet  
Acrylic on canvas  
20 x 20 cm

078. AlwayStereo  
Sienna Chevrolet  
Pen, acrylic on canvas  
46 x 46 cm

079. Gold & Silver Valued?  
Sienna Chevrolet  
Acrylic, oil paint on teddy bear  
30(h) x 11(d) x 26(w) cm
What’s Down
Steve
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40 cm

01 08 1834
Taz
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 cm
The title of the painting is an extremely significant date in human history – possibly that we’ve ever seen.
(Full story page 28)

Untitled 1
Tracey
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 cm
Dedicated works to Moisha Lord.

Untitled 2
Tracey
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40 cm

Untitled 3
Tracey
Acrylic on canvas
39.5 x 50 cm

Rest
Troy
Lead and coloured pencil on canvas
20 x 20 cm
086. **ART**
Wayne Langlo
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 cm

087. **Sunset Dreaming**
Wayne Langlo
Acrylic on canvas
119.5 x 45.3 cm

088. **Untitled**
Wendy
Pastels, pencil and paint on canvas
20 x 20 cm

089. **Multicultural Diversity**
William
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 cm

This artwork is a representation of the connectedness between race, colour and higher power.
We live in the lucky country
everybody’s making money
it never rains
it’s always sunny
Funny.

Mummy and daddy now live on the street
the children wait in the park
the park where they sleep
thank God for the food van
they all get to eat
if they’re lucky
they just might get a treat.

Some cardboard boxes
the family bed
a concrete pillow to rest their heads.

The grass is greener
I heard the father say
the banks give us
the banks taketh away
a loss of job
they’re quick to make you pay.

A bad investment, addiction cripples some
mental illness
the unfortunate ones
a full-time job
pardon the pun.

Someone’s daughter
someone’s son
the public perception
addicts – losers – bums.

We come from the lucky country
everybody’s making money
it never rains
it’s always sunny.

Love your son
love your daughter
stop the refugee at the border
back they go to the slaughter.

Build the detentions
put up the wall
this scene has played out before
crimes from the second world war.

Save the oceans
save the trees
save the planet
the birds and the bee
save some compassion
for you and me
turn the boat people back out to sea.

Human beings
how f***ed up are we
say a prayer for your family...

*Please note the final artwork contains explicit language.*
92.

**Robbery Under Arms**
Phillip

In they sailed to the bay
with that stiff upper-lip
the English way.

Stuck a pole in the ground
upon it someone placed a crown
said, “We’ll call it convict town.”

It was daylight robbery
the height of British snobbery
the King of the day thought he was clever
hired the head cook who would endeavour
high seas and stormy weather
to find and steal hidden treasures.

In they sailed to the bay
the traditional land owners were given ________ no say
the price they paid
for the price they pay
thousands of years of knowledge swept away
on that cold invading day.

93.

**The Forgotten Son**
Phillip

He stole off his mother when he was young
day he became the forgotten son
the drugs he took made him ill.

Please forgive me
say you will
please tell me that you love me still.

He never got to know his father
he’s reminded most days
they were just like one another.

One day he took off to have some fun
to this day he’s still on the run.

Say you love me
say you will
tell me that you love me still.

He looked up to his older brother
they were very close to each other.

Drafted into the Vietnam war
the last time he saw him as he walked out the door.
killed from a bullet from a sniper’s gun
his brother became the unfortunate son.

Please come home
promise you will
please tell me that you love me still.

Now he’s old
his hair’s gone grey
doesn’t go out much
he’s got nothing to say.

Thinks to himself how it all began
the day he became the forgotten son.
My enemy is faceless, yet can be seen
He hunts me regardless of my team
He shows no mercy, and revels in me
The beautiful crystal is known well, to be
A great victor, he claims many
Yet he never celebrates, for his victory is my mercy
I submit, for only a moment, it’s all he needs
To those who have beat him, for help I plea
I cry for the tactics, I desperately need
I find no solace, I surrender and fold
I make haste, for hiding, I run, I flee
But I find my opponent in waiting, in hold
Expecting my arrival, he spreads like disease
For I battle myself, my will and my goals
I celebrate each loss, I plan it Actually
He’s positioned himself like a blanket, over my nation.
Waiting for All who struggle in self, to find they are free
They find their strength, their peace, their solace, in amphetamines
So I surrender once more, I submit, I give in
I willingly make a decision to sin
My fragile state of mind I pollute
To any and all in recovery, I salute
Though I am weak, and again I have used
I do not give up, only the battle I lose
For the war will go on, eternally continue
I remind myself of my slain brothers, the fallen, I choose
I remember the good, and I selfishly use their loss
As a weapon, I will not confuse, I will not be moved
Like a mountain, I stand strong, though beaten by wind and sinew
The war carries on, after lost battles, after injuries tended to
My weakness is my relative, my strength be renewed.
My friends give me power, to carry on, continue,
But my friends also battle, and often they lose
We are the cursed, the outcasts refused.
Rejected by society, the examples, the used
Righteously feared, but wrongly accused
For mostly unaware, innocent when introduced
We are alike, our childhoods lacking, in one aspect or another
Be a material struggle, or emotions misused

Perhaps it was a connection, or love, withheld by those
Whom we depended on, to show us all we’d knew,
But our childhood influences our ailments, ensued
I change the tone, for the (listener/reader) I lift the mood
For our shortcomings and battles are balanced with clues
We’ve sought the great self, and we know the size of our shoes
I willingly stereotype, who I refer to as “you”
Though healthy and busy, and kept in the loop
Your sight is fogged, your life, a slight ruse
You run the rat-race, and waste more than you use,
You scour and scold, those who differ from you
You face your own battle, to understand You
You judge what is alternate, and differs in view
You project your misunderstanding upon what you fear
Angry, and scared, you’ve never been shown
Not yet exposed to what there is to be known
As children misled, forever to serve,
The minds of our historical leaders were cunning, and quick,
They generated a system of separation, ignorance, and hate
I don’t hate you. I hold no angst.
I don’t even fault you for projecting your hate
Your conscious perception is infant, un-awake.
And instant enlightenment, a good concept, yet fake
Even if all of man were to wake up, I fear the damage is done,
it’s just too late.
Change can be made, nations can be saved
Created as equal, yet divided by names.
Religion will teach us acceptance, yet on the same page
Will teach us division, with wars they wage
Against any culture refusing to change
Any family set in their ways,
God was lost at the first killing in his name
He would not accept this, how could you expect praise
If he were here, he would be hard pressed to forgive
The schisms and doctrines the priests teach us with
God is within us, to save is to give,
To share with the needy and accept the different
Take all you need and then some more,
Until you have you, you will be sore.
Different Days
Andre

It was a sunny day
So far away
Living in a different state
Coping with it at an alarming rate
The flowers bloomed
The world was doomed
Living on the streets
Trying to be discreet
Day by day
In a different way
Trying to cope
Showing a little scope
As days went by
I’d look in the sky
And wonder why
My life is what it is
This is it
No other way
Just different days.
Nine Galaxies
Hermes
Acrylic and paint pen on canvas
30 x 40 cm

Symbolising infinity, the birth and death of a star leading to the creation of a planet. But in the time and space continuum, time is constantly moving forward as we move through parallel universes symbolising birth, death and reincarnation. There will always be life because fortunately, out of the dark there must come light. This painting represents every living soul and organism that exists. If you attune your vibration it is important to understand that first in life there was a thought, therefore every thought projects a reality. If one is not cautious of their every thought one might end up in complex situations because the power of thought is really the power of manifestation.

My Crazy Life
Katie
Acrylic on canvas
50 x 50 cm

Due to recent misfortunes I was recently incarcerated! I’m usually a big fan of the Uniting MSIC Art Project and would usually have had a few entries. But due to my release being the 1st of August and me only attending the gallery on the 17th, with paintings due on the 18th, unfortunately this is my only entry this year! So my black background is the biggest interpretation both past and present coming from an Aboriginal background and most of my life being pretty dark! Due to events in my life recently I have been pretty blue, a lot of tears shed! The red represents the hurt, anger and blood shed in past relationships! The light blue, aqua is my life since I met my recent partner who slowly but surely is getting rid of my blues bringing a much brighter colour into my life, being the fluorescent green that now explains the colours of my life drastically improving from dark and dull! The white flecks being better days ahead! The colours all over the place explaining exactly how my crazy life is.

01 08 1834
Taz
Acrylic on canvas
46 x 46 cm

The title of the painting is an extremely significant date in human history – possibly that we’ve ever seen. Not necessarily culmination but it came to fruition on that date. This is the day the Emancipation Act came into existence; an Act which freed over 800,000 slaves across the British Empire. 01 08 1969 happens to be my birthday 176 years later. In researching the date, I discovered people like the abolitionists and William Wilberforce, who spent his whole political career working to overturn the act of one man owning another. In researching this, I saw the parallels to people experiencing dependent substance use and poverty who are today’s slaves. Governments and society treat us pretty much the same as slaves were back then, because of the way they look down on us, treat us punitively, shun us, ignore us, dehumanise us – much the same way as the slaves were back then.
Buy something from the heart

Art from the heart of the Cross artworks are for sale as framed, and all proceeds go directly to the artists. The artworks are sold to the highest bidder via silent auction.

To own one of these inspirational artworks, go to uniting.org/artfromtheheart, click on your favourite painting and you’ll be directed to the bidding page.

Let us know how much you’d like to pay and we’ll get in touch if you’re the highest bidder. If there are two equally high bids, we’ll draw a name out of a hat.

The silent online auction closes 7 December, and then we’ll get in touch with the highest bidders.

And if your heart’s set on something after bidding has closed, let us know at uniting.org/artfromtheheart and we’ll check if it’s still available for you.

Thank you for supporting the inspirational Uniting MSIC artists.

Thank you to our judges

Dr Mary Harrod  
CEO, NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA)

Charles Henderson  
Deputy CEO, NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA)

Tina Havelock Stevens  
Artist

Lisa Sharp  
Artist

Murray Hipwell  
Aboriginal Community Engagement and Consultation Lead, Uniting

Chris Gough  
Executive Director, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

Natasa Nikolic  
Community Art Project and Health Promotion Coordinator, Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation and Advocacy (CAHMA)

The staff at the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre
Thank you to our sponsors
We are proud to acknowledge the fundamental role of the NSW.ACT Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia, in establishing the first medically supervised injecting centre in the English-speaking world at the start of the new millennium in 2001.

Over 40 years ago, the Uniting Church in Australia publicly pledged to “seek the correction of injustices wherever they occur”, and has been committed to protecting and caring for the most marginalised and vulnerable people in our community ever since.