

2023 Wearable Art Workshop- art tutor Maggie Jeffries

Ability to Create- Wearable art workshop 4 May 2023- 6 June 2023.

This workshop started with a conversation about our future selves in line with the theme for this year's Ability to Create exhibition.

Over the course of 8 weeks each artist constructed a complete outfit with the intention to dress up our cardboard cut-out people for the exhibition. Each item was chosen, designed, decorated, bedazzled by our artists, and then worn in a fashion photoshoot in the final weeks of this project. These workshops encourage playful exploration by presenting the group with a selection of second-hand items to choose from, and then decorate in any way they chose.

Through conversation, each artist could direct the course of their wearable art piece, giving the artist agency and creative control.

A range of materials were brought to the workshops each week for the artists to look through, all donated or sustainably sourced and were chosen for a selection of textures, colours and structures.

In these workshops some of the artists were introduced to new skills, with a number of weeks dedicated to sewing and soft sculpture elements. By the end of these workshops the artists had made hats, bags, bedazzled shoes, dresses, skirts and tops, jewellery, and crowns. These classes are designed to celebrate the originality and personality of each artist, promoting playful and experimental making, and building confidence with new art skills. We held a focus on the making process and the joy of finding materials to work with that speak to us.

I am immensely proud of these artists and all the work they have put into this project, and it is always a joy to see each artist grow and shine through their work.

'My future self is pretty, my future self is sassy, my future self is happy'. Tash Smith, June 2023.