



shouting machine

heath littlewood

paul handley

&

marie Littlewood.





Shouting Machine is an exhibition that emerges from the life of Heath; a ten year old who lives with autism. You are invited to experience the things he builds and wonder about the impact on his family; Paul – dad, musician audio-visual technician; Marie – mum, artist, health professional and practising nurse.

Shouting Machine explores the relationship between family, creativity and connection. Heath's special interests empower an intrinsic drive to make, build, construct. His continually emerging contraptions act as a common language to give his family deeper insight into his unique perspective on the world. Connection and understanding are the beautiful fruit of his labours.

Modern technology makes photo documentation of family life easy and accessible. Chronicled on smart phones by both parents over Heath's life, this work is not about the artistic quality of the photographs. Instead it presents the inherent preoccupations that fuel Heath's desire to learn and experiment with his immediate surroundings. What you see is a collage of "moments". The contraptions in the photographs reveal more than Heath normally divulges; concrete, crafted whispers and shouts of what is capturing his attention in the wider sphere and how he is prioritising his current world view.

Marie's 30 years of inhabiting health care sector in a 'hands-on' profession has taught her the primacy of connecting with children as unique humans held within a web of relationships. This commitment to seeing the "other" and being truly present to them motivates her to nurture her connection with Heath and the other children who inhabit the flourishing community where a diagnosis becomes a creative power rather than an affliction. Marie has undertaken

training and professional involvement in attachment theory (Circle of Security) and communication principles (Marte Meo).

Shouting Machine serves as a visual mind map for negotiating the way to the things that resonate within a child. A family flow chart of sorts; an ecosystem rendered in the ubiquity of the jpeg.

Marie has fashioned objects in fabric felt that relate to the contraptions. They speak a response to Heath's self-communication. These felt objects are reminiscent of stuffed toys, an expected children's plaything and source of comfort. The use of this format and material is intentional – (as felted exhaust pipes and bicycle pumps toy with this pre-conceived notion.) Heath's act of making calls out from Marie a response in this shared language. A mother's making in response to a child's making, in the mood of reflected delight, reinforces the worth as human, agent and beloved.

'I see what you make, and what you are delighting in. This has meaning and value to us and we all flourish.'

This exhibition coincides with Autism Awareness Week and the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, and is supported by Autism Outreach Services.

***Save the date: 11.30am -12.45pm Thurs 2 April**

There will be a forum related to Arts + Autism. See website for further details.
wchfoundation.org.au/the-impact-we-make/arts-in-health/



Image: *Don't even think about it* by Marie



Image: *Very Safe Towel Rack* by Heath

The Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) raises funds in support of the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, South Australia. The WCH Foundation is committed to *creating greater good*, ensuring that mums, children and their families have access to the very best in medical care, hospital facilities and support services at a time when they need it the most.

The WCH Foundation has developed Arts in Health programs to integrate art into the life of the Hospital to improve people's health and wellbeing. We try to make the environment more 'child-friendly', making it look better and help to make the time spent in hospital 'feel better'.

The Arts in Health program delivers a range of activities throughout the hospital across art forms such as: Visual Arts, Digital Media, Music and Performing Arts, Public Art, Literature and the Therapeutic Arts (Play Therapy, Art Therapy and Music Therapy). From providing pencils and colouring books in waiting areas, to managing Gallery spaces and art displays in the Hospital, collaborating with Hospital School on book week activities and working closely with the Play Therapy Team, the Arts in Health program delivers smiles and fun throughout the Hospital.

The WCH Foundation's Gallery program coordinates five galleries in the Hospital, providing a space away from the stresses of treatment to distract, entertain and inspire, improving the visual environment. The artworks displayed in the exhibition spaces come from a range of sources – internally from hospital staff, patients (women & children) and their families, through specific Arts in Health activities and externally from local artists and art collectives.

This exhibition was planned and exhibited on the lands of the Kaurna People, we pay our respects to the Kaurna Elders past and present and to the Elders of the lands this brochure reaches.

Exhibition concludes 5th May.



For more information contact:

Lauren Simeoni, Arts Officer, Arts in Health
artsinhealth@wchfoundation.org.au | T 08 8464 7900
55 King William Road | North Adelaide | SA 5006
www.wchfoundation.org.au



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