



### Project Report - Felixstowe Town Council March 2022

Hamilton MAS thanks Felixstowe Town Council Civic and Community Committee for the award of £400 grant towards the funding of the artYsPaceS project.

This funding was key in enabling the artYsPaceS to continue, supporting two participants on the programme by providing materials and funding towards their Arts Award qualifications, Silver and Bronze.

#### Project Partners

Hamilton MAS continues our relationship with Suffolk County Council Children and Young People's Services, Minding the Gap and Lapwing. We are also in discussion with The Bridge Organisation for the Arts Council and a number of education and arts providers about creating an East Suffolk LCEP - Local Cultural Education Partnership.

#### Project Participants

The artYsPaceS opportunity is offered to young people with complex access and inclusion needs – currently recruited through referrals.

Hamilton MAS now runs the artYsPaceS programme regularly and the Arts Award ([www.artsaward.org.uk](http://www.artsaward.org.uk)) and it has become a rolling programme.

Four young people have been recruited and participating individually on a regular basis.

The programme is steadily and sustainably growing.

The FTC Occasional Grant of £400 contributed to the funding of two participants in the programme.

One young person is working towards his Silver Arts Award and has volunteered to become a Volunteer Studio Assistant for an hour a week.

This young person has been able to complete all areas of the work required for his qualification, this included having a solo art exhibition. He is currently being supported in writing up the project to finalise the award.

One young person continues working towards her Bronze Arts Award. This young person is also how gaining support to be assessed for an EHCP.

We have recruited four young people to pilot small group work this coming summer – our key participants supported by FTC have gained enough confidence to try this.

Sessions will remain one to one with the added opportunity of trying a group/social studio art making setting. All young people currently on the artYsPaceS scheme experience extreme anxiety, depression and one young person is also neuro-diverse.

The aim is to work towards regular group sessions by Autumn 2022/Spring 2023 – this will require further financial support.

Felixstowe Town Council Funding

£400 used to fund art materials and Arts Award qualification monitoring support.

This is an extremely valuable contribution to the total budget for the project of £7600 – as Hamilton MAS is a micro arts organisation without core funding this has proved invaluable for the progress made with these two young people who are how both expressing hopes to continue with education and contemplate working towards creative employment.

The impact of this work builds capacity within Hamilton MAS and the community of Felixstowe to support more young people, from a very marginalised group, and their families - helping them grow in self-esteem, gain qualifications, further their education and employment opportunities enjoy themselves through creative activity.

Sincere thanks on behalf of Hamilton MAS and the artYsPaceS Project.

Bryony Graham

Director

Hamilton MAS

31<sup>st</sup> March 2022



 **artYsPaces**  
making space for young people

presents  
**Josh Bloomfield  
Paintings**

Invitation to View

Private View  
Monday 19th July  
from 6pm - 8pm

Tuesday 20th July  
- Saturday July 31st  
from 11am - 4pm

 **HAMILTON  
MAS** the micro arts space  
by the sea, Felixstowe.  
Bent Hill, IP11 7DG  
info@hamiltonmas.org.uk  
for further information







Pic: Elly Clarke

Exhibition Statement by Josh Bloomfield  
(Born Ipswich, 2001)

Most of the time I feel quite empty.  
Most of the time I don't feel much.  
Most of the time I don't feel much emotion.  
Most of the time I do things to escape.

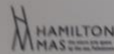
But it makes me feel happy when I paint and they come out right.  
And then I want to show them to people.  
For me, it's quite unpredictable as to how they come out.  
Because you're pouring it in the middle of the canvas and then you're just kind of moving it in a way you hope will look good. And then you leave it flat to dry.  
If you have too dark colours, they end up darkening quite a bit which can ruin how they look. I usually put white in between so they don't muddle together.  
Some of them look quite good when they're not sprayed or varnished.  
I learned how to do this by watching videos on YouTube.  
It can be known as Pour Painting or Fluid Art.  
When I'm not painting, I play quite a bit of PlayStation with my online friends.

– Josh Bloomfield, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021









**artYspaceS**  
making space for young people

artYspaceS is Hamilton MAS' youth programme, which provides support and mentoring to young people living with long term health conditions as well as training towards the Arts Awards. Hamilton MAS is a designated Arts Award centre.

**Director's Statement by Bryony Graham**

This is the inaugural exhibition of artYspaceS at Hamilton MAS. I am extremely proud of Josh's artistic and creative journey and how he is contributing to the development of our artYspaceS programme. It has been inspiring to see his confidence grow over the three years, as he takes ownership over his own artistic practice. For a year, we drew. Then we started to find colour and explore different modes and methods of making. And he never gave up – all the way through the Covid lockdown, during which many works in this exhibition were made, in his mother's kitchen corner (see below.) This exhibition is part of Josh's Silver Arts Award, through which he is learning how to become a leader in the arts. He gained his Bronze Arts Award in early 2020 and began working towards his Silver just as the pandemic hit. 10% of all sales will go back towards supporting artYspaceS.



Kitchen corner, where most works in the exhibition were made. Pic: Josh Bloomfield.

**Acknowledgements**

Born in Ipswich, 2001, Josh would like to thank his Mum for believing in him and Taryn Mason and Julie Pottle for help with the installation. Massive thanks to Bryony Graham for all the help and encouragement and motivation over the last three years and to Elly Clarke for help more recently. Hamilton Mas is extremely grateful for support from Arts Council England, Felixstowe Town Council, Level Two and Suffolk Libraries BLOC programme.

**Contact**

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