

## BEE Inclusive: 'Bee Visible' SEND Art Exhibition



The Bee Inclusive, 'Bee Visible' Art Exhibition Event was an unforgettable display of creativity and extraordinary talent, amplifying the voices and perspectives of our children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

These unique art pieces gave us a powerful glimpse into the lives and experiences of these young people, highlighting their invaluable perspectives, special interests, and views of the world. The exhibition displayed art exploring a variety of subject matters and personal interests using a range of mediums and techniques from coloured acrylics and coloured pencils to lino printing and even Lego!

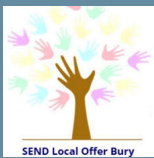
Alongside this artwork, powerful and provocative art pieces and installations from professional artists confronted us with the realities of some of the lived experiences of those with additional needs in our society.

Not only was this event a celebration of SEND talent and expression, but the art projects and workshops leading up to the exhibition ensured accessibility was at the centre of this process with a range of equipment and materials on offer to cater to all artists. The Bee Inclusive SEND Art Club gave children and young people a space to express themselves, create, and socialise together as they worked in partnership towards this outstanding achievement.

There was an overwhelming sense of community at this event, with the artwork inspiring a buzz of conversations ranging from the hardship's individuals with additional needs experience to the affectionate and humorous anecdotes that encapsulated the experience of having a loved one who experiences and processes the world so uniquely.

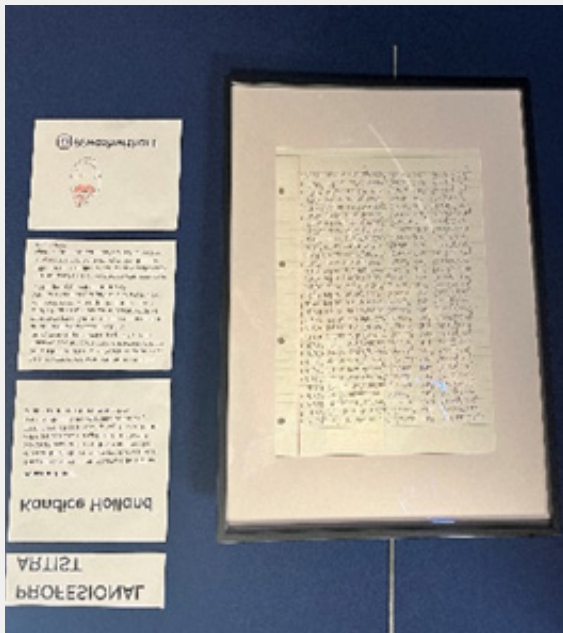
One standout piece, 'Girl at Window' (etching with aquatint) by Maggie Lea, depicted a girl trapped behind a window—on the outside looking in at the world. The art perfectly depicted the feeling of being 'othered' and excluded that many individuals with additional needs experience as they navigate the world.





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Kandice Holland's 'Punishment Lines' was inspired by her older brother who struggled in the public school system in the 90s. Kandice explains that her brother is undoubtedly neurodivergent but never received the right support during his time in school. The piece explores the punishment of children with additional needs and the label 'naughty' that was (and sometimes still is) often assigned to neurodivergent children. Kandice asks us to acknowledge past failings in our education system and implores us to question: 'What is happening in our current system that we will look back on with regret in years to come?'

Creative Coati offers a variety of art and craft workshops, catering to different skill levels and interests. For this exhibition Caroline Coats delivered several engaging workshops focused on fostering positive self-image and personal expression and celebrating differences through lino printing.



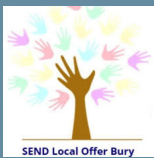
One of the wonderful signs that this art was created by unique minds was the clear and often unwavering depictions of special interests that our young artists incorporated into all of their art- with some artists like Hallie, aged 10, staying steadfast in her theme of cats regardless of the variety of prompts and media put before her.

A special mention to an artist after our own hearts and the creator of this piece, Ronnie Kirkley. Truly a piece that resonates with us all!

A massive well done to Kandice Holland and everyone at Bee Inclusive for all their hard work. You created something truly very special with this exhibition and we look forward to seeing where this project goes next year!







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Kandice Holland (professional artist) and Olivia (SEND Art Club member)



Bricklands Lego Club Project



SEND Art Club



'Icarus Falling on Bury Job Centre'- Maggie Lea



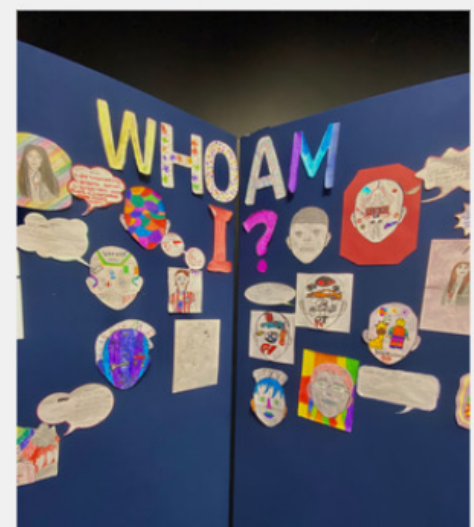
'Is She a Baby?'- Kandice Holland



Kandice Holland, Councillor Lucy Smith, Ronnie Kirkly and Martin McAndrew



'My dyslexia goblin'  
Caroline Coates



'Who am I?'- Elton High School SEN Students