Over six workshops, 6 Rocket Artists and 3 Phoenix Artists worked together to develop processes that could enable inclusive, collaborative curation. The resulting exhibition Rocket Artists present Art By Johnny is shown in the main gallery, to your left.

The work in this corridor, and in the South Gallery to the right, documents the inclusive collaborative process taken by the curation team in developing the Art By Johnny exhibition. Here we present the work that is usually invisible in an exhibition; what needs to happen ‘before and behind’ it as well as revealing how we make decisions as a group of artists, with different practices, experiences and abilities.

The text you see here was gathered from the group as we looked at all our documentation at the end of the workshops. It is a mixture of voices reflecting on our process.

Henry and Angela invite us in to look around at Johnny’s artwork. It is everywhere – on the walls, leaning against walls, by sofas and chairs, rolled up in the shower and in piles of unframed works – and on the cushions and book covers too. We were able to take our time. Some of us drew pictures to identify the works that interested us the most, some of us looked through the artwork, some of us asked questions. We saw where Johnny makes work in his studio: Tarpaulin, easel, a table full of paint-pots and brushes.

Johnny wasn’t there – he was at college. We sat around the kitchen table and had lunch together talking and eating and meeting.

We took photos of the work and thought about framing and not framing. We looked at really big paintings and very small drawings and thought about the colours and the themes and asked questions about Johnny and his paintings. Back at the Phoenix we visit the gallery – collecting envelopes with copies of Johnny’s paintings inside and using them to get ourselves into pairs. We work in those pairs to choose 7 paintings and arrange them on the wall.

Then we look for visual connections, stories and ideas for grouping the works. We decided on regular Facebook posts to share our process with Johnny, his parents – and others.
Curation process panel 2 - Rocket Artists present Art By Johnny

ok

voice to be heard. We don't all agree and that's Group working together makes space for each used to make all voices visible in the room. Post-its can be moved and reordered and are Yellow - Maybe

Blue - No

Pink - Yes

mix. Shuffling images and noticing connections interest in common – then, one at a time. Making we choose and collect in pairs, finding an making collections and viewing the time to get to know the artwork – in one Looking and choosing. It is important to take

who communicate, remember what and why and Having pictures of Johnny helped us

Reflections:
While working together to think about Johnny’s approach and under this exhibition, we had both real and imagined ideas, we were communicating in the gallery space and we were trying to understand how our work was appropriate with the body of work positively and artistically. The main idea of this exhibition was to show how the Rocket Artists can curate and share works that are meaningful to them.

Johnny works from a number of locations, in particular we have his Studio at Phoenix Brighton and from his family home in Hove. The majority of his work is created digitally with a stylus. He also creates drawings in the studio and on the floor. The majority of his work is also created in partnership with other artists and curators.

When:
Johnny began sharing ‘Man’ as an early ages drawing. ‘Man’ is an idea that is often explored by his family. ‘Man’ is a drawing of a figure, with a clear back background and his arms and legs show the connection to the body. ‘Man’ is a coming together of all the drawings we have seen over the years. ‘Man’ is a way of thinking about the world around us.

Fills and Views:
Fills and Views have been a long held theme of Johnny’s work. The drawings have been regularly repeated and revisited. They have a keen focus on beauty and the natural world. They show a keen focus on beauty and the natural world. They show a keen focus on beauty and the natural world.

The exhibition continues into the corridor where the Rocket Artists invite you to sit on the sofas and there are a number of artworks on display. The exhibition is open for a further three weeks in November 2018. For more information on the Rocket Artists and the exhibition please visit the website.

Gallery exhibition guide, Outside- Rocket Artists present Art By Johnny

Exhibition Guide

The Rocket Artists are a group of artists with and without learning disabilities. We created Art By Johnny and have designed this guide to support visitor experience and engagement with the exhibition. Afternoon Tea and visiting the gallery is not for sale, merchandise is available during the associated events. Please see Phoenix Invigilators for details.

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Invitation to Phoenix Artists to join Rockets curation team & curation team panel used in final exhibition- Rocket Artists present Art By Johnny

Call out to join our curation project
Rocket Artists are working to curate an exhibition of Johnny Carroll-Pell, opening April 2nd, 2018 at Phoenix Brighton.

We are looking for 3 Phoenix artists to join us for this project.

Please get in touch
Selected artists can expect to:
• collaborate with Rocket Artists and experience inclusive ways of working in facilitated workshops
• Receive a training workshop to introduce you to the Rockets ethos and inclusive ways of working in a supported studio
• Support monthly portfolio reviews and one to one sessions
• Receive £100 expenses

You will need to be able to commit to the following dates at Phoenix Brighton:
Meet us:
Monday 22nd Jan from 1.30pm
Training:
Monday 29th Jan
Workshops:
Mondays 10-3pm
Feb 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, March 5th, 12th
Plus 2 of these dates in March: 27th, 28th, 29th.
Exhibition opens 2nd April

Are you...
Email your expression of interest by 19/1/18 to info@rocketartists.co.uk
Send:
• 3 photos of your work
• your artists statement
• a sentence about why you would like to take part in the project

Interested in exploring ideas of curation, inclusive working and collaboration?
Able to to commit to a series of dates?

For more information Rocket Artists  www.rocketartists.co.uk         |   Art By Johnny on Facebook         |   Phoenix Brighton www.phoenixbrighton.org

Meet the curation team
Johnny & Parents Phoenix Artists Rocket Artists
Johnny Carroll-Pell Polly Blake Tina Jenner Jane Fox
Angela Pell Camilla Harrower Kelin Burke Sarah Bennett
Henry Normal Carol Quinn Louella Forrest Jo Offer

present
Art By Johnny
exploring inclusive curation

Rockets anteroom team panel.indd   1 25/03/2018   20:29

Gallery exhibition guide, Inside- Rocket Artists present Art By Johnny
This exhibition sees the realization of two aims: To celebrate the creativity of artist Johnny Carroll-Pell and to present the collaborative journey and processes that the Rocket Artists explored in creating the show. In this sense the exhibition seeks to highlight and honour both the individual and collective endeavor at the heart of the Rocket Artists’ philosophy.

Working together they curated and organized an exhibition that met the needs and goals of the artists, whilst also meeting the needs and goals of the curators. It is this unique perspective gained from these experiences now sees Rocket Artists extend the opportunity to collaborate and interpret the show in a manner that is credible and valid insights and expertise that artists with learning disabilities have to offer. It throws a light on the shifting role of the collaborative artist within supported studios and socially engaged contexts. This exhibition saw the group working together, that the collaborative curation process on Sunday 22nd April Rocket Artists devised and curated Side by Side at the Spirit level gallery, Southbank Centre, London. The curation team will be sharing insights into their collaborative curation process.

Visitors to the exhibition can experience 3 distinct areas of work: the main gallery shows a selection of Johnny's artwork: the main gallery shows a selection of Johnny's artwork whilst the adjoining corridor holds the visual mapping of the curation process itself. The installation explores the exploration of inclusion, curation, audience engagement, partnerships and socially engaged arts and socially engaged contexts. The unique perspective gained from these experiences now sees Rocket Artists extend the opportunity to collaborate and interpret the show in a manner that is credible and valid insights and expertise that artists with learning disabilities have to offer. It throws a light on the shifting role of the collaborative artist within supported studios and socially engaged contexts.

In exploring what it is like to be artists charged with making decisions about the artworks of another, the group have been able to reflect on what individual artists seek to highlight and honour both the individual and collective endeavor at the heart of the Rocket Artists’ philosophy. By working together they were able to create an exhibition that met the needs and goals of the artists, whilst also meeting the needs and goals of the curators. It is this unique perspective gained from these experiences now sees Rocket Artists extend the opportunity to collaborate and interpret the show in a manner that is credible and valid insights and expertise that artists with learning disabilities have to offer. It throws a light on the shifting role of the collaborative artist within supported studios and socially engaged contexts.
Install of curation process panels in corridor and South gallery - Rocket Artists present Art By Johnny