



HAZELHURST REGIONAL GALLERY & ARTS CENTRE
31 AUGUST – 13 OCTOBER 2013

HIROMI HOTEL MOON JELLIES

Art Magic Education Package



Hiromi Hotel - Moon Jellies

has been commissioned by Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre and is a performance installation involving local community participation.

Hiromi Hotel - Moon Jellies

will be exhibited in Hazelhurst Regional Gallery 31 August - 13 October 2013.

Hazelhurst

REGIONAL GALLERY & ARTS CENTRE

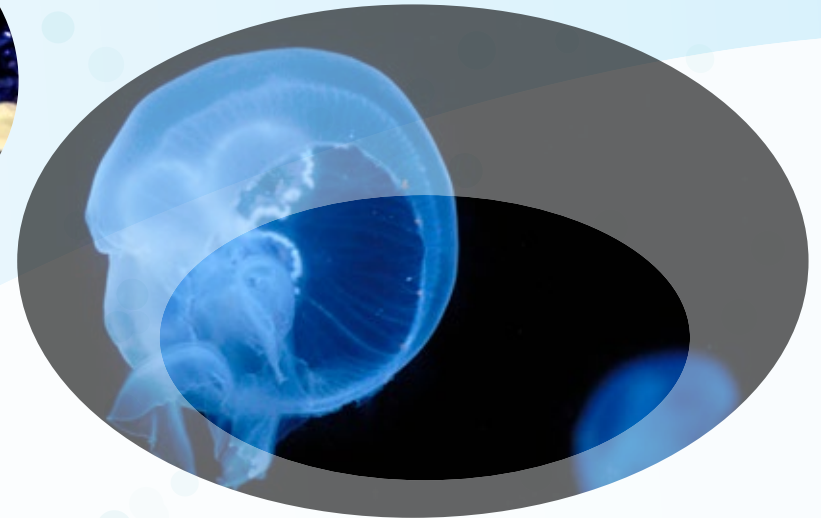
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The film **ART MAGIC with Hiromi Tango** accompanies this Education Package.

Background



Hiroimi Hotel is a conceptual Art Hotel, where local community members and artists get their own conceptual space. In this Hotel you can stay as long or as little as you like and develop artwork freely within the given Theme. An organic collaborative process, Hiroimi Hotel aims to cater for each individual's needs and to create a safe, gentle and stimulating learning environment.

Moon Jellies are a type of Jelly Fish, and in this project we will explore how **Moon Jellies** can be interpreted. Several art making techniques demonstrated in this education package are based on the Moon and Sun, as well as the Moon

Jellies' shape, texture and movement. **Moon Jellies** have a meditative and therapeutic quality for many, which connects to the idea of **Art Magic**. **Art Magic** has therapeutic qualities, but is not Art Therapy. It focuses on the magical quality of art activities and engagement. The techniques developed by workshop participants through engagement and feedback will re-connect people within the community.

About Art Magic

Art Magic explores the meditative act of wrapping through sound, aroma and physical movement. It is an extension of artist Hiromi Tango's interest in working with textiles, particularly around the potential for creative processes and arts engagement to support emotional and social development. The **Art Magic** workshops are suitable for everyone, with opportunities to participate regardless of skill level or abilities. It is joyful, fun, easy and inclusive.

Through consultations with local educators and facilitators, we can develop specific **Art Magic** activities suitable for the location and participants' needs.

Participants are encouraged to bring their personal objects (fabrics and clothes) and together we will wrap objects, get dressed up and dance. Through weaving wrapped personal objects that are meaningful to the specific community members, local artists and the artist Hiromi Tango, we create interactive and performative site-specific sculptures.

Weaving collective personal memories that are embedded in wrapped objects is an important component of Hiromi Tango's work, as they represent how these memories are stored in our DNA permanently. Hiromi has been investigating weaving 'wrapped memory' - how individual transitional emotions are stored in an art object - and the way that further

wrapping and developing them with colour categorised yarns and fabric can assist with emotional and social development.

Art Magic has been organically developed through community engagement workshops across Australia and internationally over the several years. Dr. Jing Sun, a health researcher with a special interest in the benefits of arts engagement for different populations, observed that:

"All of Hiromi's recent projects have included extensive community participation through workshops where she encourages participants to bring objects and fabrics/wrapping materials to use. Participants are taught to wrap their objects so that they become art objects and are incorporated as part of a larger structure."

Participants often report that the process of wrapping objects and releasing them to become part of a greater whole is quite therapeutic. For many, this may be a means of working through a painful memory such as loss of a loved one, or a failed relationship.

From a neuropsychological perspective, the act of planning a sequence of actions, which requires one to hold information in the working memory, stimulates the frontal lobe of the brain. This can produce healing effects, as the creative process is intriguing and stimulating."

The wrapping process is strongly connected and inclusive - through unwrapping and engaging with subconscious memories that are embedded in our own DNA, it also forms connections with all of the people who have participated in Hiromi Tango's previous projects.

This is a collaboration through both public and group workshops, where the local community members are invited to use personal fabric and clothes to be converted into **Collective Chords** that are added to the forms, continuously evolving into a larger artwork. Being an organic process, the outcome is unknown.

These workshops are places for meeting, for sharing and for exchanging individual wrapping and weaving techniques, as well as the occasional performance together. Hiromi Tango sees this aspect as an **Art Magic** process that gently brings people together with their personal material, memory, history and movement. The quiet and gentle human connections and interactions that take place through workshops, inform Hiromi's interest in learning more about the scientific basis for **Art Magic**.

About Hiromi Hotel – Moon Jellies

Hiromi Tango, artist statement
and concept behind **Hiromi Hotel –
Moon Jellies**

“Close your eyes, and imagine
we are under the ocean and
Moon Jellies are dancing
around us, and we become
Moon Jellies. I always have
one strong wish, which is to
feel and to heal.”

- HIROMI TANGO

I once heard that when an event is personalised, it is stored to your long-term memory. Once there, it is hard to delete, it stays forever in your brain. This idea reminded me of the ocean bed, as like sediment on the seabed, these memories accumulate. They remain unseen but exist forever.

Some memories, we need to leave behind, some memories we need to take with us. I wondered if we could transform memory to the clear transparency jelly which is ready to absorb new information. When I first saw Moon Jellies dancing weightlessly in the ocean, I imagined difficult memories being disentangled from my brain, and I became free like the **Moon Jellies** dancing in the ocean.

Hiromi Hotel – Moon Jellies explores the mysterious therapeutic power of art engagement, using the ocean ecosystem as a metaphor for the brain. I have invited two local artists Pat Pillai and Rita Pearce – health professionals who share my strong interest in the therapeutic potential of art engagement, memory and brain development – to artistically explore our shared interest through the creation of ‘satellite brains structures’ in collaboration with community members within the gallery space. Together we hope to dance with **Moon Jellies**.

Research into how we might transform difficult memories has been an ongoing passion for me. I have been particularly inspired by books about

neuroplasticity and resilience. These concepts have become widely known through books such as Norman Doidge’s best seller **The Brain That Changes Itself** and **Resilience: Why Things Bounce Back** by Andrew Zolli & Ann Marie Heally. These books, among others, have inspired my approach to exploring the magical and therapeutic properties of art and art-making. Over recent years, my research interests and practice have focused on emotional and social development through art engagement.

In 2010, Leigh Robb, PICA curator described my work, as being “a coral reef which harbours teeming diverse colonies of collected thoughts and things – mutually dependent yet independent.” Looking back over the many projects with community members and fellow artists since then, I see the contributions and energy of my collaborators as the beautiful coral reef for each project. **Hiromi Hotel – Moon Jellies** has been commissioned by the Hazelhurst Gallery, and it is a community specific performance installation, which reflects the local community members’ ideas, emotions, memories and our personal interactions. The work will be produced through the conceptual interpretation of wrapping and weaving processes.

My visual arts practice centres around performance installations that are collaborative and interactive, creating sites for human connection, social and emotional engagement,

and weaving together “unspoken emotions” that are part of our individual and collective DNA. Since 2006, I have been collecting/generating the objects, artworks, letters and photos that embody people’s emotions and memories, often ones that they find hard to leave behind. Through wrapping, stitching and weaving together these donated “precious memories”, I develop soft sculptural works, costumes and installations.

In my earlier works, I transcribed and hand-stitched the collected personal stories and objects into a variety of works. More recently, wrapping has become an essential aspect of my art practice. The idea of ensconcing ‘wrapped memory’ in a protective covering and then further wrapping it with colour-coded yarns and fabric has developed. Aspects of the collective thoughts, memories and emotions of the many people who have engaged with my work over this time through donating items, sharing stories and collaborating in the art-making process through workshops, have become part of my own consciousness over time. Thus something from each previous project is carried forward into each new project, at new sites and with new communities.



Outline

This package has been prepared for Educators and Workshop Facilitators to provide guidance through the workshop process for creating **Moon Jellies** art works, and support them in the creative process.

The Hazelhurst community members are encouraged to participate in the creation of art works - **Art Magic** (several sample art recipes will be provided) and encouraged to be part of the performative installation, whether through physically dressing up, or attaching the work to the collective costume or installation - how they participate is up to the individual and the groups. Hiromi Tango will weave the artworks generated by the local community members, and will wear some as her costume while dancing with **Moon Jellies**. After the performance, the artwork will be exhibited as part of the organic installation that will organically grow throughout the installation time. The outcome becomes the collective **Art Magic** of the local Hazelhurst community.

The colour theming for **Moon Jellies** is based around three colours - blue, green and yellow. These are reflective of the sun, sky and ocean. The work represents the view of the world from beneath the surface of the water.

Materials

Each community group will be responsible for collecting materials donated by the community such as fabrics, used clothing and objects in the colours blue, green and yellow.

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre will supply a package with certain materials such as bells, pipe cleaners, wool, wire hanging garden baskets, hula hoops and coloured balls.

The actual workshop format itself is arranged around core ideas, each attached to a specific activity. These are referred to as **Art Magic**, as each activity is designed to explore ideas and actions that can transform everyday materials, as well as producing a beneficial effect for participants through the creative process.

If you wish to discuss the concept behind the work or any of the processes please contact Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre.

Workshop Activities & Notes

Participants in the workshops are encouraged to donate all art works produced to become part of the installation.

- The purpose of the activities are to encourage emotional and social development. Some activities are most suitable to work in pairs or as a group. For the group activities, it is recommended to work with small groups of 4 to 5 people, with an educator/facilitator in each group to support the activities.
- The activities can be arranged, based on the colours. The main colours for the Moon Jellies are Blue, Green and Yellow, which represent ocean, sky and sun. Recommended combinations are blue/silver, and yellow/gold. Attaching bells creates gentle sounds, transforming the objects made by participants into musical instruments. The resulting bright colours, shiny bells and gentle sounds can have the effect of bringing comfort and joy to participants.
- The materials used for the activities are everyday materials, second hand and new materials. Educators and facilitators could organise the activities based on the participants' age group, and their skills and needs. These Art Magic activities use a mixture of everyday materials – many of which hold a personal memory, or history of the area, and are great way to stimulate memory. It does not matter whether it is an individual memory or collective memory.
- Generally speaking, soft materials, such as the materials used in soft toys or soft balls are suitable. Upholstery and carpet are unsuitable. Please avoid the use of food, sharp objects, breakable objects, such as glass bottle or ceramics. If participants would like to utilize these types of objects, the educators could suggest photographing those objects, or doing a drawing to represents them.
- Preparation – cut the fabric into three widths of 10cm, 20cm and 30cm, by 40cms in length, so that the materials are easy to manage. Once participants learn how to make artworks, the lengths of the fabric could be longer. These are recommendations only, and educators could make the most suitable preparation for each art workshop based on participants' needs and skills and the type of fabric being used.

Art Magic Recipe Examples

All activities can be modified for the participant's need. Second hand fabric, which has personal memory and stories are encouraged to be included, but depending on the participants' needs, educators could choose the best materials and activities suitable for the group. The main colour code is blue and green, comprising approximately 80 % of the overall work. Yellow is the contrast colour, comprising the balance of the work. It is important for participants to colour-code and separate the blue-green tones and yellow tones.

The act of wrapping, colour-coding and organising is an important meditative process that supports emotional development. The act of working together also supports emotional and social development. The activities are examples only. Please develop and add suitable activities for the participants needs. Flower making, beading and friendship bracelets are also popular activities which can be included.



MOON JUGGLING

Pom poms with legs for **Moon Jellies** – pom pom making was recommended by one of the Art Educators in the community. **Moon Juggling** combines the pom pom making technique with the creation of Personal Chords. Once the Moon Juggling pieces are made they can be attached to the Hula Moon or Shiny Moon & Sun. Shake to see them dance!



HULA MOON

Connect Hula Hoops by wrapping them up with fabric and yarn. These can be used as part of dance or movement activities. You can wear them as costume as well. They can be combined, and become a giant Moon Jelly.





MOON TENTACLE

The moon tentacle is made from objects or soft balls, wrapped in fabric. You can also create your Personal Chord by wrapping with yarn. If you would like to write a story, it can be attached. Depending upon the participants' skills and needs, this activity can be organized from 5 to 45 minutes in duration.



SHINY MOON & SUN

The Shiny Moon is a Blue and Green Ball, and Shiny Sun is an Orange and Yellow Sun made by hanging basket frames used for gardening. Garden mesh wire is used to attach two hanging baskets together to form a sphere.

The sphere is further wrapped using donated fabric from the local community with either blue, yellow or green yarns.



Art Magic Recipe Examples



JINGLE MOON

Pipe cleaners are recommended to attach bells. Wrap around the pipe cleaner using yarn to secure the bells that will be connected to the final artworks. This activity is called **Jingle Moon**. When the **Jingle Moon** is made, it can be attached to the **Hula Moon** or **Shiny Moon/Sun**. Once Bells are attached, the everyday materials are transformed into a musical instrument and artwork. This activity encourages exercise and movement through an activity that produces sound, colour, texture and fun! It is an easy, quick activity, which requires only a couple of minutes to make.



MOON PLAITING

Plait a mixture of secondhand fabric and new fabric together, once again colour-coding by blue, green or yellow. Participants are encouraged to work collaboratively through this process, with one person holding on to one side while the other person makes the plait, taking turns as appropriate. This activity can be further developed or modified to finger knitting or rope making activities.



Where does the Art Magic come from?

The use of the term **Art Magic** reflects the transformation that takes place in participants and objects through the creation of something new out of everyday materials, and the resultant social interaction.

Art Magic has therapeutic qualities, but is not Art Therapy. It is a process that has developed organically and collectively through various community workshops, and it continues to grow. It does not require scientific evidence, as it focuses on the mysterious and magical quality of art activities and engagement.

Hiromi Tango uses terminology that reflects her understanding of the benefits of arts engagement as an artist.

Other Art Magic Recipes

Finally, educators, facilitators and local community members are invited to come up with their own art magic recipe, developed over the exhibition period. (New **art magic** recipes can be incorporated into the exhibition, or become the seed of new art projects for future development).



Index of Terms

Art Magic – Hiromi Tango uses this term to describe what happens when community members come together to engage with art making processes, such as transforming everyday objects and materials into works of art. The use of the term Art Magic reflects the transformation that takes place in participants and objects through the creation of something new out of everyday materials, and social interaction.

Art Therapy – A discrete discipline that uses creative processes, such as art making, dance and drama, to assist with personal emotional development and healing.

Collective Chord – is made by weaving together many “Personal Chords”.

Colour-code – The process of sorting objects and materials according to colour. For example, in this work, materials are sorted into groups of blue/green and yellow. These colours represent an aspect of the colours of the ocean (blue/green) and the sun (yellow).

Hiromi Hotel – a conceptual space where artists and members of the community can freely engage in art- making activities within a given theme. An organic collaborative process, Hiromi Hotel aims to cater for each individual’s needs and to create a safe, gentle and stimulating learning environment.

Hula Moon – Hula Hoops wrapped and connected with yarn and fabric.

Jingle Moon – is an activity which creates a musical instrument, using bells, pipe cleaner and yarn.

Moon Jellies – A type of Jelly Fish. In this project we will explore how Moon Jellies can be interpreted as an artistic concept.

Moon Juggling – uses pom poms to create legs for moon jellies.

Moon Plaiting – creating a plait using second hand and new fabrics that are colour-coded.

Moon Tentacle – combines personal fabric, or objects and soft balls, re-wrapped in fabric. It may contain a personal chord.

Personal Chord – is made from an object or materials that holds some special significance to an individual, wrapped in a protective covering such as yarn.

Shiny Moon & Sun – made from two hanging basket frames joined to create a sphere, which is then wrapped in colour-coded fabric.

Therapeutic – having a beneficial effect.

Hiromi Hotel – Moon Jellies
Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre

31 August – 13 October 2013

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“Dancing with colours, sound,
texture and fragrance.
Moon Jellies are living inside of us,
and when we cast the Art Magic,
they will come out of us, and dance.”
- HIROMI TANGO

