

Alternative Beauty

Aspire Calendar 2008

Aspire is not just about showing art, we are about interacting in community and making creative experiences accessible to a wide range of people. This gallery and studio is open free of charge to anyone walking in off the street looking for something alternatively beautiful and true in a neighbourhood often caught in between the selling and buying of temporary happiness or a short escape. Giving room for expression to the hopes and fear of our human experience is key to health and understanding in a confusing and painful world. Aspire's interactive environment attempts to equip people with the courage to discover and use their own potential. Help to help themselves recognise things of value and hope which aspires for that little bit more contained in a process of growth and positive change. Some of this positive change and growth you will see on the following months filled with thoughts and images from our guest artists and loyal studio participants.

What good does it do?

Often I am asked what good this "artsy" place does, what it really accomplishes. The answer is... questions: What inspires your life? Does it do any good to be inspired? Simple words of encouragement and acts of kindness have empowered people with dreams to change our world though out history. Aspire is a haven for potential to be and grow into something more than the individuals. To enjoy life and really be alive requires a feeling of purpose for our spirit, a practical belonging for our soul and the grace to perceive with all of its ups and downs.

Sponsoring

This place of community and creativity is an offer free of charge and is mainly financed through donations. All profit of this calendar will benefit the project, but doesn't cover the cost at all. In order for Aspire to build bridges between people of different cultures and levels of society, we depend on financial support. Any amount makes our work possible. Donations made out to "Soul Works Foundation" and "Diakonisch Stadtarbeit Elim" make this gift to the community of Klein-Basel possible. Both organisations are charity. Donations are tax-deductible.

Get involved!

Feel free to come by and see for yourself. We would love to have you as our guest and offer you a coffee and a guided tour of the latest show or project. There is seldom a boring moment in Aspire, so why not try your hand at our latest interactive creation in 2008? Until then we would like to thank you and all our supporters from the last years, looking forward to the many fruitful experiences to come.

Bryan Haab
Kurator Aspire
Soul Works Foundation

January

Lia Hertig

Basel CH

Winter Tree with Birds

Wire and papier-mâché

Workshop participant "Wired? Weird?" with Jürg Zurbrügg

Handwritten text:

Faith is like a bird singing when the night is still, cold and dark.

This saying has inspired me for my work. I have realised that when I want to give expression to a strong inner picture, a message is given back to me. It is a process of receiving and giving.

February

Jürg Zurbrügg

Bern CH

The big decision

Wire, chess figures, acryl

Aspire Artist in Residence November 206 – January 207

Workshop "Wired? Weird?"

Works out of wire, video installation „truth and beauty“

Handwritten text:

Big discussions have their origin. Somewhere. Image. We make decisions from our gut feeling and from the head. Out of. Image. That's what we are. Human. Image.

March

Ralf Zwahlen

Böckten CH

The Lion of Juda

Wire

Workshop participant "Wired? Weird?" with Jürg Zurbrügg

Handwritten text:

Jesus is my king and friend. Thank you, my saviour and healer. You came to me, prisoner of the night, snatched me away from Satan's power. Hope, courage and joy of life you have given me! Thank you, Jesus. Never will I be without you. Hallelujah!!!

April

Jason Trachsel

Biel CH

Motivation

Two old bicycles

Aspire Artist in Residence, February – April 2007

Workshop "Transformation"

Three dimensional usable objects with original functions and designs were transformed and re-created out of combinations of disused utility objects.

Handwritten text:

Discovering hidden potential, while doing things like making this digger out of parts from two thrown away bikes, is a passion in my life which often requires uncountable hours of work. Sometimes I don't know if I am working or playing though!

Forest Gump's famous line: "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get."

My famous line: "Take what you get and use it to its full potential, even when it doesn't always taste like chocolate."

"E Guete!"

May

Rahel Huber

Basel CH

Titel: Tohuwabohu

Broken mixer, wire, screws and rivets

Workshop participant "Transformation" with Jason Trachsel

Handwritten text:

Actually I never could relate to metal as material because it feels too cold and hard. But one reason for coming to the workshop was to try new things so I chose a broken mixer to see what would happen next. After some brainstorming with Jason I created "Tohuwabohu", the key holder. Instead of mixing up things, like whipped cream, the transformed mixer now brings order to the chaos of all my keys.

Juni

Tsering Wangchuk

Tibet

Sound Machine

CD drive, additional parts from 5 computers and scrap wood

Workshop participant "Transformation" with Jason Trachsel

Handwritten text:

What I learnt in Aspire satisfies my soul. It cheers me up even when I think and dream about it. But even greater is the feeling of honour that I meet all the people associated with Aspire, who have given their time, energy and potential to make a difference in other people absolutely expecting nothing in return.

Juli

Pilar Castillo

Mexico

Colorful Nightmares

Wire, plaster, texture paste, acryl, wood and pharmaceuticals

Workshop participant "Life Stealer – Life Giver" with Ellen Müller

Handwritten text:

One day I dreamt, that I was ill, that I shook in my pain and fear, that my eyelashes were closed and that they would close me up inside myself. A white angel gave me food to eat. His voice was sweet, soft and skilled. My mother spoke to me. My brother spoke to me. From a distance my dog barked. Shocked and sweating I woke... I hope. I don't know if it was a dream or a nightmare.

August

Ellen Müller

Karlsruhe DE

Self-righteousness

Trunk segments with vines, wire, papier-mâché, gouache, graphite

Aspire Artist in Residence, May – July 2017

Workshop "Life Stealer – Life Giver"

Works and installations out of papier-mâché, plaster, texture paste, PU-Foam and other materials

Handwritten text:

While rummaging in the basement of Aspire I came across some trunk segments, which were overgrown with bulky ivy vines. "Actually, these are life takers, too" Bryan stated casually, which then kicked off a creative process in me and ended in this sculpture slowly unveiling itself. Self-righteousness, which – most often in its religious form – makes one blind, callous to hear and snotty... hence being a life taker par excellence!

September

Heike Brecht

Karlsruhe DE

Time Devourer

Wire, papier-mâché, watches

Workshop participant "Life Stealer – Life Giver" with Ellen Müller

Handwritten text:

In Aspire I experienced esteem, free space and trust through God and people (like Ellen, Mecky, Elim residents and other workshop participants). I was encouraged, and instead of hiding and taking on the role of the strong one, I accepted my weaknesses and the pressure of time and performance that I feel. "Time Devourer" stands for, my personal unmasked "Life Stealer." With this piece, I can look into the face of my weaknesses and at the same time express my desire for change.

Oktober

Melanie Bocholt

Weil am Rhein DE

Bild:

Photographer Aspire

Handwritten text:

To capture the atmosphere of Aspire is a privilege from me. It's my desire that these images take you the viewer right into Aspire.

November

Jacqueline Poffet

Basel CH

Destruction of the old Jerusalem

Workshop "Going through the Fire"

Wood, acry, oil paint

Workshop participant "Going through Fire" with Manuela Saurer

Handwritten text:

A different glow has the sun, a different glow has the moon, a different glow have the stars, because one star differs from another star in its glow. (freely translated 1. Cor. 15:41)

In that way this picture differs from all the others that I painted up to now. Take a chance on something new. The workshop „Going through Fire“ brought a new perspective to me; or simply said: let me experiment and made me take a chance on something new.

December

Manuela Saurer

Basel CH

Song of Song

Wood, acryl, oil, pigments, coal

Aspire Artist in Residence August – October 2007

Workshop "Going through the Fire"

Two and three dimensional works with and about fire

Handwritten text:

Fire changes. Something mundane before, suddenly becomes interesting, a favorite place is charred and crumbling. Working with fire you have to learn to let go. It was beautiful to see how course participants got involved with this process and became courageous. I believe that this can lead into great freedom – and as a gift you receive an artwork that can never be repeated, lively and very different from what one expected.

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Galerie / Atelier Aspire for interaktive Art

Hidden along the side streets of one of the worlds museum capitals, Basel–Switzerland, you will find a gallery and studio space pulsating with interactive creative processes. A place where grass roots art meets, speaks and burns with the language of the street and beyond to people from all walks of life. The images and thoughts in this Calendar are the fruit of our guest artists and loyal studio participants during the 2007 season. It's higher than average price tag helps carry a portion of the costs that come along with this original charity endeavour. Why don't you come by to see for your self and enjoy a coffee on us, and even get your hands right into the colour of Aspire's dynamic environment?

See www.soulworks.ch for the latest projects, opening times and dates.

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