

# PROMOTING DISABILITY IN OUR ARTS CURRICULUM

## ARTISTS

ALISON LAPPER - RECEPTION AUTUMN AND WINTER ART AND YEAR 3 PERSPECTIVE SKYLINE

MARIUSZ KEDZIERSKI - YEAR 2 and 3 PORTRAITS

MARIAN PARÉ - YEAR 2 and 3 PORTRAITS

RICHARD WAWRO - YEAR 2 HISTORY TRAINS

TOM YENDELL - YEAR 1 SHAPE KANDINSKY TOPIC AND YEAR 6 ISLAMIC PATTERN

STEPHEN WILTSHIRE - ARCHITECTURAL ARTIST - YEAR 5 CITY SCAPES AND YEAR 3 PERSPECTIVE

TONY HEATON - YEAR 6 SCULPTURE PROJECT

## MUSICIANS

EVELYN GLENIE - YEAR 2 BOOMWHACKERS and YEAR 4 SCIENCE SOUND

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN - YEAR 4 PSHE INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

STEVIE WONDER - YEAR 5 HISTORY OF MUSIC PROJECT

PHIL COLLINS - YEAR 5 HISTORY OF MUSIC PROJECT

BRIAN WILSON - YEAR 4 PSHE INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

## DANCERS

ALICIA ALONSO - YEAR 5 DANCE AND NORTHERN BALLET PROJECT

SUDHA CHANDRAN - YEAR 1 INDIA DAY

## ACTORS

DANIEL LAURIE

LIZ CARR

MICHAEL J FOX

DANIEL RADCLIFFE

CHRISTOPHER REEVE

TOM CRUISE

LOU FERRIGNO

## ALISON LAPPER



Alison Lapper was born on 7 April 1965 in Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. She was born without arms and with shortened legs, a condition called phocomelia. She was institutionalized in her infancy and is still distant from her relatives. When she was fitted with artificial limbs, she felt that their aim was not to help her, but merely to make her look less disconcerting to others: she therefore abandoned them and learned to live without external aids.

She left Chailey Heritage School at the age of 17 and moved to London. She attended the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People, in Banstead, Surrey until the age of 19, where she learned to drive. She completed both 'O' and 'A'-levels in art at Sutton College of Learning for Adults, before pre-foundation and foundation courses at Heatherley School of Fine Art.

Lapper then moved to Brighton and studied in the Faculty of Art and Architecture at the University of Brighton, graduating with a first-class honours degree in Fine Art in 1994.

Lapper uses photography, digital imaging, and painting to, as she says, question physical normality and beauty, using herself as a subject. She is a member of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists of the World (AMFPA), having joined as a student member and receiving a full membership after her college graduation. One particular influence is the sculpture Venus de Milo, due to the physical similarities between the idealised classical female statue and Lapper's own body. She has taken part in various British exhibitions, including in the Royal Festival Hall. In May 2003, Lapper was awarded an MBE for her services to art.

After she had given birth to her son Parys in 2000, she created an installation of photographs of herself with him. Lapper and her son featured in the BBC television documentary *Child of Our Time*. In 2006, she published her book *My Life in My Hands*.

## MARIUSZ KEDZIERSKI



Mariusz Kedzierski was born in Swidnica, Poland, 10 November 1992.

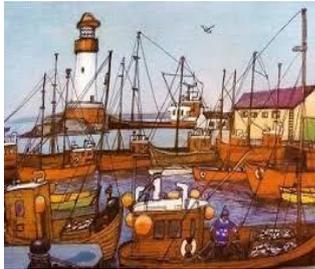
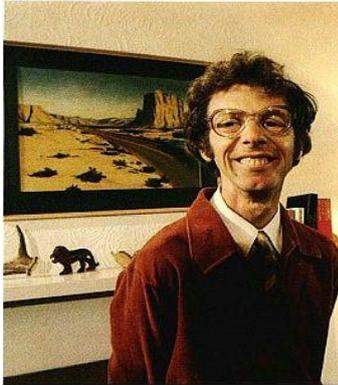
He was born without arms, but art has been his way of life since he was 7. He gained expertise in sketching black and white portraits that he draws and shades with graphic pencils. He is completely self-taught although he studied at the Faculty of Interior Design of the E. Geppert Academy of Art and Design in Wrocław, where he now lives. He has drawn over 700 realistic drawings, most of them portraits, which have sold in many countries across the world. He was awarded the Best Global Artist prize in Vienna in 2013 and in 2015 he launched a unique project called 'Mariusz Draws', covering a distance of over 12,000 km in 17 days and drawing on the streets of Berlin, Amsterdam, London, Paris, Barcelona, Marseille, Venice, Rome and Athens to inspire people and show them that all the limits are in our heads. Apart from his artistic career, Mariusz is also a motivational speaker and on one the 100 most influential people with disability in Poland. In 2018, he was awarded the Best Global Artist prize in the 'Realism' category and Best Global Artist 2018 All Round Winner at the Global Art Awards Ceremony in Dubai.

## MARIAM PARÉ



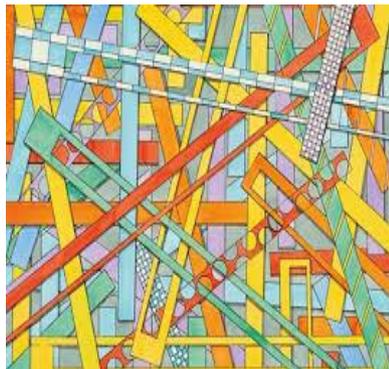
Mariam Paré is a visual artist, designer and speaker. She was born in Morocco and her family moved to the United States when she was very young. She always loved to paint and her passion for art continued through her teenage years and she dreamed of a career making art. However, her life changed forever when, shortly after graduating from art school, she was accidentally involved in a shooting, paralyzing her instantly. Mariam became a quadriplegic; permanently unable to walk and with significant loss of function in her upper limbs. The assailant was never identified or caught. She embarked on a long period of rehabilitation, slowly relearning how to do everyday activities, use a wheelchair and hold things with fingers that didn't move. After being trained to sign her name by holding a pencil in her mouth, she realised how much control she had. This exposed her to new possible way of painting. If she could control a pencil in this way, then why not a paintbrush? With earnest determination, she soon began teaching herself again how to paint using her mouth. She felt that all the knowledge was still inside her and wanted to be expressed. She began to practice painting by mouth every day. In 2003 Mariam began a degree in Fine Art, an Associates Degree in Graphic Design, and a certificate in Web Design. In 2006, she was accepted as a member of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists (MFPA). Eighteen years after her violent injury, painting by mouth has become second nature for Mariam and now she says she can't remember what it's like to use her hands.

## RICHARD WAWRO



Richard Wawro was a Scottish artist notable for his landscapes in wax oil crayon. He was born in Newport-on-Tay on 14 April 1952. He was diagnosed as autistic at the age of three and did not learn to speak until he was 11. As a toddler, he began to draw on a chalkboard and began to use crayons at the age of six. His talent was recognised soon after and his work was described as "an incredible phenomenon rendered with the precision of a mechanic and the vision of a poet". Overall, he sold more than 1,000 pictures, including to Pope John Paul II. Wawro worked primarily with wax oil crayon, specialising in landscapes and seascapes that were acclaimed for their highly detailed and dramatic images of intense depth and colour, drawing from images he had only seen once, such as in books or on television. His phenomenal memory enabled him to recall where he drew each picture and to date it precisely in his mind. Although possessing perfect recall, he often added his own touches to the images. He was particularly inspired by light, and the tones he used to capture light and shadows are considered masterly. In 1983 his life and work were the subject of an international, award-winning documentary film, *With Eyes Wide Open*, by the autism expert Laurence A. Becker, Ph.D. who also produced a video profile of him, *A Real Rainman*. Richard Wawro died in 2006.

## TOM YENDELL



Tom Yendell is a professional mouth and foot painter and has been an artist for over 30 years. He was born in Winchester in 1962. His mother took Thalidomide during her pregnancy, a drug used at the time to alleviate nausea for expectant mothers. Shortly after it was first sold, it was discovered to cause malformities in babies. It's predicted that around 10,000 children were affected. Tom was born without arms but hasn't let this disability come in the way of his passion for art. He soon learnt to do everyday tasks using his feet, mouth and chin. Although he tried to use artificial limbs growing up, at the age of 14 he decided he didn't need any. He attended Treloar's, the largest school and college for disabled children, where he was encouraged and pushed to achieve. He gained an Expressive Arts degree in 1993 and went on to join the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists (MFPA) as a student. In 1986 he was chosen as one of the Men of the Year for his work helping others. The following year Tom was made a full member of the MFPA, meaning he was a professional and financially-independent artist. He doesn't see himself as having a disability or any challenges. He just has a different way of doing things. He believes that disability is a negative word so, instead, he likes to see himself as a unique individual.

Tom continues to be connected with both Treloar's and the MFPA. In recognition of his contribution to the MFPA, Tom was promoted to the Board of Artists in July 2013.

<https://disabilityhorizons.com/2019/01/we-speak-to-mouth-and-foot-artist-tom-yendell/>

## STEPHEN WILTSHIRE



Stephen Wiltshire was born in 1974, and at the age of three, Stephen was diagnosed with autism.

He is an artist who draws detailed cityscapes. He has a particular talent for drawing lifelike, accurate impressions of cities, skylines and street scenes after having only observed them briefly – sometimes just once. He was awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire for services to the art world in 2006. His drawings are popular all over the world, and are held in a number of important art collections and museums.

## Tony Heaton



Anthony James Heaton OBE is a British sculptor, disability rights activist and arts administrator, who was awarded an OBE in 2013 for services to the arts and the disability arts movement. Heaton was born in Preston, Lancashire, in 1954, the son of a coppersmith and, at the age of 16, a motor bike accident left him with a spinal injury.

He was CEO of the arts charity Shape until March 2017 and in 2012, he won the competition to produce an installation celebrating Channel 4's involvement in the London 2012 Paralympic Games. This produced his 'Monument for the Unintended Performer'.

## Evelyn Glennie



Dame Evelyn Glennie is the first person in history to successfully create and sustain a full-time career as a solo percussionist, performing worldwide with the greatest orchestras, conductors and artists. Evelyn paved the way for orchestras globally to feature percussion concerti when she played the first percussion concerto in the history of the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in 1992. Evelyn has commissioned over 200 new pieces for solo percussion from many of the world's most eminent composers to vastly expand the percussion repertoire. She regularly provides masterclasses and consultations to inspire the next generation of musicians. The film '**Touch the Sound**' and her enlightening **TED speech** remain key testimonies to her innovative approach to sound-creation.

Leading 1000 drummers, Evelyn had the honour of a prominent role in the Opening Ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Evelyn was awarded an OBE in 1993 and now has over 100 international awards, including the Polar Music Prize and the Companion of Honour. She was recently appointed the first female President of **Help Musicians**, only the third person to hold the title since Sir Edward Elgar and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.

Evelyn is currently creating **The Evelyn Glennie Collection** with a vision to open a centre that embodies her mission to **Teach the World to Listen**. She aims to 'improve communication and social cohesion by encouraging everyone to discover new ways of listening as proven in her book '**Listen World!**'. We want to inspire, to create, to engage and to empower'.

### Deafness

Glennie has been deaf since the age of 12, having started to lose her hearing at the age of 8. She often talks of feeling the vibrations of the instruments which allows her to play and perform.

## Ludwig Van Beethoven



Beethoven began to lose his hearing in his mid-20s, yet went on to compose some of the greatest symphonies of all time.

The most famous of the musicians with hearing loss, Beethoven was just 26 years old when his severe tinnitus began in 1796. Not only did the hearing loss cause him difficulty in hearing music, but he also began avoiding conversations as well. In 1811, Beethoven failed in his attempt to perform his own Piano Concerto No. 5 and resolved to never perform publicly again.

By 1824, he was unable to hear the orchestra or the thunderous applause behind him at a concert and had to be turned around to see the audience's adulation. Ultimately, the cause of Beethoven's hearing loss is unknown, and while the struggle and loss of his hearing was very difficult to the musical genius, he continued on to change music forever.

## Suggested Listening:

### Stevie Wonder



A child prodigy, Wonder became one of the most successful and well-known artists on the Motown label. He has been blind nearly since his birth. While in the hospital, his incubator was left too warm, which caused his retina detached and his optic nerve was gone forever. He has recorded 23 albums and more than 30 U.S. top ten hits, such as *Superstition*, *Sir Duke* and *I Just Called To Say Love You* (which topped all the charts the board it faced). He has written and produced songs for many of his labelmates and other artists as well. His music, which concerns love, peace, care and knowledge about the outside world has won him 25 Grammy Awards (the most awarded to a male solo artist). Wonder plays the drums, guitar, synthesizers, congas, and most famously the piano, harmonica, and the keyboard. In 2009, United Nations dubbed him "Messenger of Peace"

## Phil Collins



Beloved as the lead singer of Genesis and a favourite among the younger set for the soundtrack to Disney's Tarzan, Phil Collins is musical legend whose career came to an end partly as the result of hearing loss. The singer's hearing loss has impacted his ability to perform and he now uses hearing aids.

Collins told "Die Zeit" about his experience with sudden hearing loss, saying, "'At the time, I was recording in the States and had spent the day singing in the studio. Then I collected my daughter from school. We got home, had something to eat, played a video game. Then suddenly my ear went sssssshh. Within a second my left ear simply closed down. As if I had been under water. I tried to clear it by pinching my nose. But it made no difference. So I thought it will sort itself out. But it didn't."

## Brian Wilson



Unlike many of his contemporaries, Beach Boys singer Brian Wilson's hearing loss has been a lifelong struggle. As a child, it was discovered that the popular singer is almost completely deaf in his right ear. While the exact cause of his hearing loss isn't known, the hearing loss didn't stop him from going on to become one of the most successful musicians of his time.

## DANCERS

### Alicia Alonso



There are few examples of blind professional ballerinas. The most famous is Alicia Alonso, a Cuban prima ballerina and choreographer who had partial sight in one eye and no peripheral vision. Alonso was known for intense drama and technical purity on stage.

Alicia Alonso (born Alicia Ernestina de la Caridad del Cobre Martínez del Hoyo; 21 December 1920 – 17 October 2019) was a Cuban prima ballerina assoluta and choreographer whose company became the Ballet Nacional de Cuba in 1955. She is best known for her portrayals of Giselle and the ballet version of Carmen.

From the age of nineteen, Alonso was afflicted with an eye condition and became partially blind. Her partners always had to be in the exact place she expected them to be, and she used lights in different parts of the stage to guide herself.

## SUDHA CHANDRAN



Sudha Chandran is a successful Bharatanatyam dancer and an Indian film and television actress. She was born on September 21. She earned her B.A from Mithibai College, Mumbai and an M.A in Economics. She overcame her disability of losing her leg in an accident with the help of a prosthetic 'Jaipur foot', becoming one of the most highly acclaimed dancers of the Indian subcontinent. Her decision to dance again after a gap of two years was met by thunderous applause. She received invitations from all over the world for her performances. She was honoured with various awards after she performed as far away from home as Europe, Canada and the Middle East.

## ACTORS

### DANIEL LAURIE



"Basically having Down's syndrome is kinda cool. To me it's absolutely cool. I so yeah, that's how I've got Down's syndrome... and you absolutely crack me up." Daniel Laurie is an actor with Down's Syndrome. He appears in the drama series 'Call the Midwife'.

## LIZ CARR



Carr has used a wheelchair since the age of seven owing to arthrogryposis multiplex congenital and frequently refers to her condition in her stand-up as "meus thronus kaputus". She is frank about her life as a disabled person and the inherent comedy that brings. She appears in the drama series 'Silent Witness'

## MICHAEL J FOX



Think about Michael J. Fox was the star of some of the biggest films of the 1980s and then, struck down by Parkinson's Disease, he focused on his health for a while. His public reappearance in the massively popular TV Series The Good Wife showed the world that his visible and speech impairments made no difference to his ability to do what he does best: put on a show and create and develop characters we love and hate.

## DANIEL RADCLIFFE



Daniel Radcliffe suffers from dyspraxia, a neurological problem that impairs the organisation of movement.

## Christopher Reeve



Christopher Reeve is almost synonymous with his Superman character, and suffered a spinal cord injury while horse riding. He dedicated the remainder of his life to researching spinal cord injuries and inspired many people in his situation.

## Tom Cruise



Tom Cruise is a world-famous movie actor, and is extremely dyslexic, which is classed as a learning disability.

## Lou Ferrigno



Lou Ferrigno played the part of the Incredible Hulk in the 1970s.

He is partially deaf, resulting from infections as a child.