

Art from the Heart puts pain of addiction in the...

By MADELINE CRITTENDEN

The Sunday Telegraph

Sunday 4th December 2022

220 words

Page 31 | Section: General

1026cm on the page



Art from the Heart puts pain of addiction in the frame

MADELINE CRITTENDEN

TURNING their struggles into art, dozens of Sydney drug users are set to exhibit original works created while battling addiction and substance abuse.

This weekend, the state's only supervised medical injection centre will launch an exhibition featuring artworks, poetry and photography from artists battling drug addiction.

Now in its 12th year, the Art from the Heart of the Cross exhibition allows staff at the centre to connect with clients on a more personal level, helping them find purpose and give them a sense of dignity.

Some of the artworks depict the artists' struggle with addiction, others a connection to Indigenous culture, while many tell the story of current events – such as the war in Ukraine.

Set up in 2001, the Kings Cross centre refers users to rehabilitation and support services where possible, recording 20,000 referrals to health and welfare services in that time.

The exhibition is titled *Come as You Are* and aims to welcome people without judgment, according to the centre's health education team manager James Mulholland.

The exhibition is on now at 107 Projects gallery in Redfern, where the 148 works can be bought in a silent auction.



A work by Megan Moses.



The Aim of the Stars by Kimberly SCA.

V1 - TELE01201MA