



The Roots Of Democracy

KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL: INFORMATION & LIBRARY WEEK

A Creative Response by Fleassy Malay

ARTIST STATEMENT

When asked to write on the theme “Roots of Democracy” I found myself at a bit of a standstill.

How can one person create a hollistic and balanced response to such a topic? It is to me, by default, a topic that needs multiple voices to be in it’s truth.

So, it is from this place that this project was formed.



ARTIST STATEMENT

What took me was the feeling of the Library being a place of intersection and overlap. A place where worlds collide, pass each other by, and expand in whole new ways.

Everyone in the Library is learning; about the world, about themselves, about each other.

And what is democracy without informed voices?



Image by Rabie Madaci
on Unsplash

ARTIST STATEMENT

When I sat there and closed my eyes I could feel a millions voices around me. Thoughts meandering, books whispering, children uttering, and elderly minds recalling.

This piece is intended to represent that cacophony of learning, that intersection of interests, and to become a collage of moments and experiences that none of us will every truly know in full, but in some ways, makes the world we live within.



Image by Joyce Hankins
on Unsplash

THE PROJECT

Part One: The Collection of Varied "Voices"

- Collect quotes from Library Patrons across YPRL asking them "What have you been learning in the Library today?"
- Collect quotes from books returned to Watsonia Library. Pick books at random, open to a page, and write the first line I see.
- Whilst in the Library collect anonymous snippets of phrases I over hear. Take note of them with no identifying factors included.



THE PROJECT

Part Two: The Process of Collage

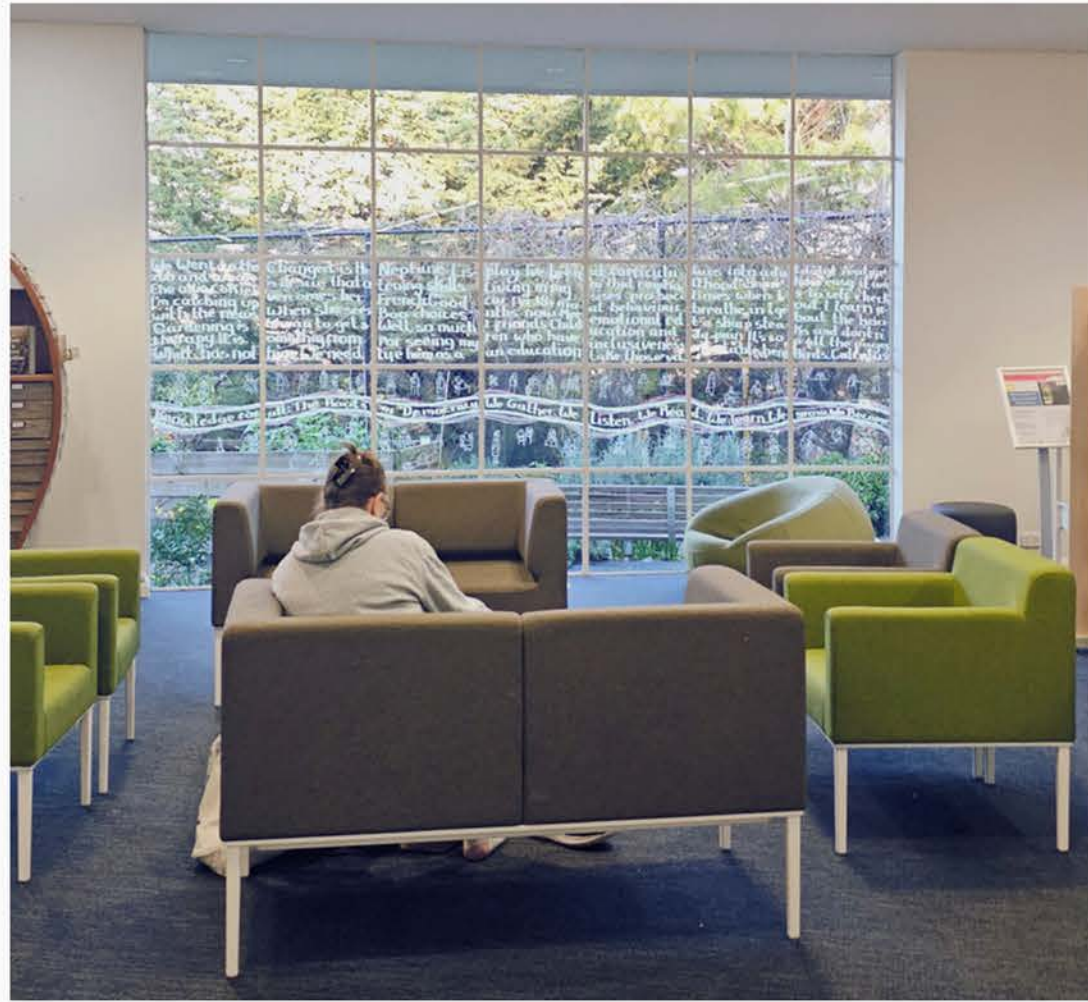
- Using the collected “voices”, weave some of them together as a written collage poem on the windows of Watsonia Library. Allow chaos and cohesion to appear.
- Looking in through the window, sketch moments of people interacting with the library. Capture the tiny moments that are lost as quickly as they happen in loose and impressionistic forms that do not identify the people captured.



PROCESS PHOTOS



END PHOTOS: INTERNAL

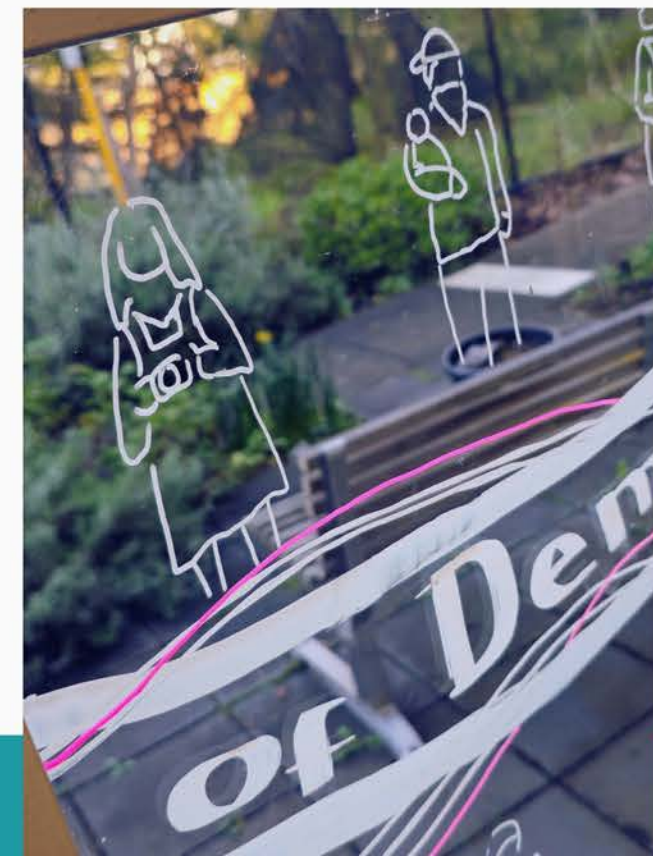
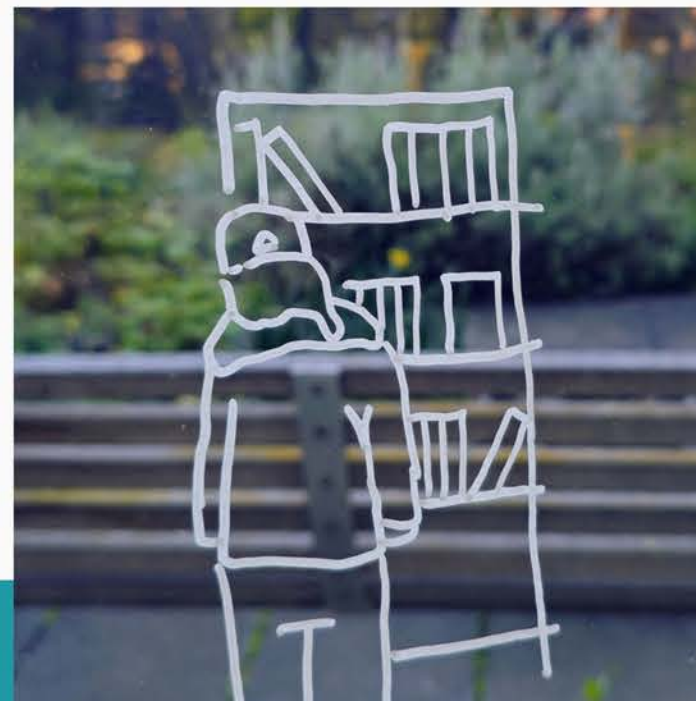
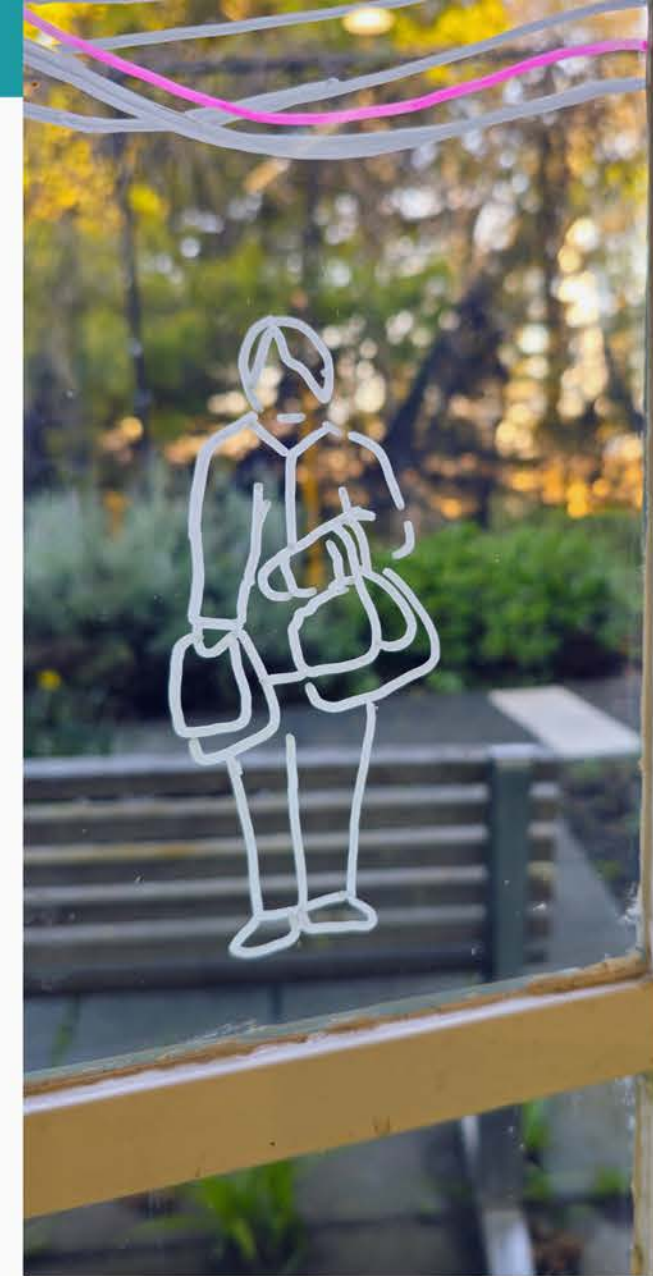


END PHOTOS: EXTERNAL

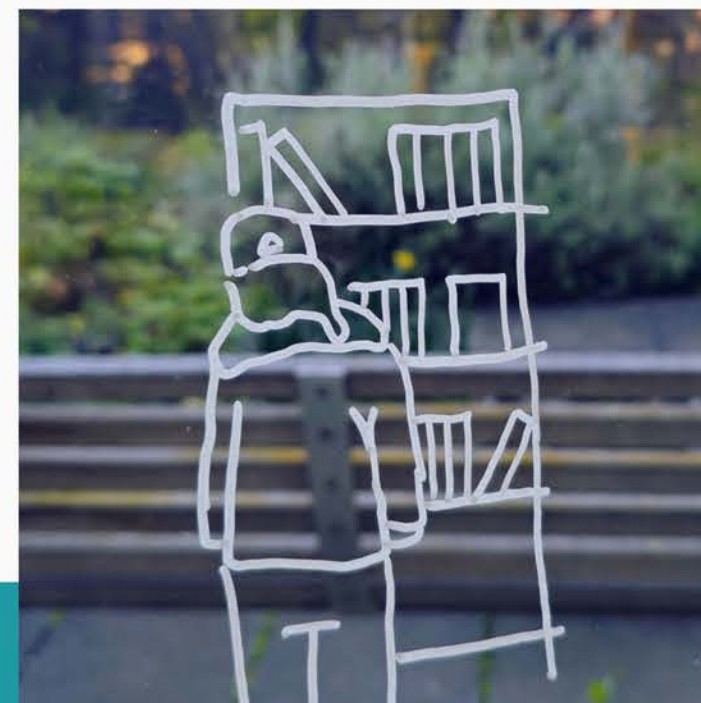


This art piece is a creative response to the Knowledge for All: Library and Information week theme, The Roots of Democracy. It is a collage poem made from feedback, overheard phrases, and quotes from books returned on a specific day.
- Fleassy Malay-

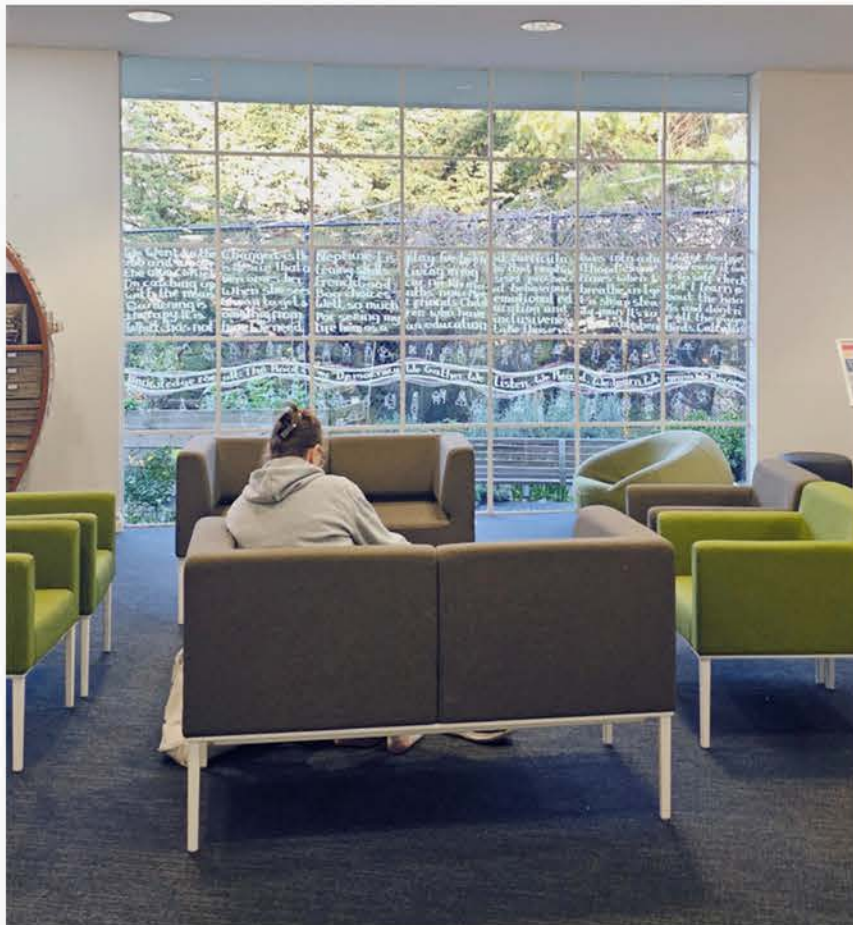
DETAILS



DETAILS



Poem 1 was written on the internal window of Watsonia Library. A full documentation of all quotes and their sources will be sent with this presentation.



Poem 1:
We went
to the zoo
and Woah
the okie cokie
I'm catching up
with
the news
gardening
is therapy
It is
what has not
changed
is this desire
that overcomes her
when she sees Ehsan
to get something from him

We need
Neptune
listening skills
French
good boo choices

Well, so much
for seeing my life here
as a play.
I've been living in my car
for 18+ months now.
meet friends
children
who have an educational
curriculum
that emphasises pro-social
behaviour,
emotional education
and inclusiveness,
take those values
Into
adulthood
sometimes
when I breathe
I get a sharp
steady pain
It's comfortable
here

I didnt realise
how easy it was
to use the self
check out
I learn
about the books
and don't rip
all the pages
birds
calculus

Poem 2 was written on the external window of Watsonia Library. A full documentation of all quotes and their sources will be sent with this presentation.



Poem 2:
Having quiet time
helps concentration
I'm studying
product management
reading
and
colouring in.

The art of Inner Leadership
means you get to reclaim
your own story
and decide
where your boundaries lie

If anything
it's an improvement

Storytime;
I learned how to make
award winning pizza dough
from a library recipe book
how to vote in my language

Months of pretending
she barely existed;
it had been a way of guarding
against rejection
Why?
resources
for coping with life
challenges such as grief
that a drone
can deliver food

Reading with dogs
she's allowed to
If there is no dog food
she's allowed to
I discovered
the rainbow
brain
and other books
about neurodiversity
ocean
animals
how to read hard words

Let me tell you something
Bruno is not
the worst dog
in the world
I'm so happy
I have found a home
for my pommegranate.
If you
tilt your head
up high
you will see

The pigeons fly
the scientific term for this process
is cutaneous respiration
our skin is very thin
with a large number
of blood vessels just below
the surface
Who's behind
the farmers gate?



Poem 2: Continued



That's not
my mermaid
her crown is too
bobbly
we
shouldn't jump
to conclusions.

I had no idea
researching my family history
would be so much fun!
First Nations stories,
songs
& craft
new words

I read a book
that said you can learn a lot
from reading children's books
so I thought I'd browse
the children's section
for the first time

The library helped me
with my doctorate
enlarge text
play mahjong
chess
birds

As you grow
as a learner
and begin to share
knowledge,
you become
a source of learning
for others

This is a
tremendous privilege
as well as a great responsibility

Encourage coping through
consistency

I learnt
what chicken nuggets
were made from
recently
chicken?
yeah
but a slurried one
pronouns
block coding
fish
can be bigger than
chickens
do you
generally
only collect seeds
from the strongest
Plants?

Well,
I don't know.
You'd have to ask

I think it's time
for a picnic.

ARTIST SUMMARY

What was created was an interactive, site specific performance poem and visual collage which formed with and from the Watsonia Library location and beyond (with the inclusion of all the YPRL Libraries involvement).

On the day Library Patrons, and the artist themselves, were able to watch the poems and visual art appear in a way that will never be able to be exactly replicated. It was truly “of the moment” and, I feel, a genuine depiction of how the Library supports a wide range of people to make choices that build our world through living an informed life.





THANK YOU

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