



## **PRESS RELEASE: South Wilts Mencap Arts Project**

### **Members make artworks for the Multi-Sensory Art Installation**

Over five weeks in April – May 2016 members from South Wilts Mencap have put their creative talents to the test, creating artworks to be exhibited at Larkrise Special Educational Needs and Disabilities School, through the Multi-Sensory Art Project.

Over the weeks all members of the group have explored the theme of 'Journeys' looking at internationally renowned artists such as Richard Long who explore these ideas in their artworks, as inspiration for their new creations.

The young artists have created amazing artworks and objects that will be explored by pupils at Larkrise School. These creations have been made to encourage an exploration of them through all the senses.

Zany binoculars have been designed to explore a giant pathway that has been created entirely out of handmade rocks and a beautiful painted landscape awaits you at the end of the trail.

The artworks will be exhibited from Monday 23 May – Friday 27 May 2016

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### Notes to the Editors

**South Wilts Mencap** is a local charity, based in Salisbury, that supports people with learning disabilities, inspiring them to achieve their full potential and enabling them and their families to lead fuller lives. It does this by

- running clubs and events for a range of age groups
- offering advice and support through a family visitor service
- providing grants for people with learning disabilities
- running a holiday company, Breakaway
- Working with local organisations and Councils to help make people's lives better
- Raising funds through a charity shop in Salisbury run solely by volunteers.

*For further information about South Wilts Mencap please visit the website [www.mencap.org.uk/local-groups/group/south-wilts-mencap](http://www.mencap.org.uk/local-groups/group/south-wilts-mencap) or contact Miranda Avis [secretary@southwiltsmencap.org.uk](mailto:secretary@southwiltsmencap.org.uk)*

**The Multi-Sensory Art Project** supports art in all its forms. Art is powerful and of incredible importance for all aspects of our lives. It is therefore paramount that everyone has access to high quality art experiences as 'every child has but one opportunity for a great education'. After various pilot projects at Larkrise School, the idea of creating installations was validated by various professionals who felt this was an appropriate way for all children to explore art through all the senses. The project was running successfully at Larkrise but we wanted it to be rooted in the Arts and approached the New Art Centre, Roche Court, an Art Gallery with international repute, to support our alternative gallery.

Our partnership is innovative, unique and mutually beneficial. Roche Court Educational Trust (RCET) offer support and a link to the contemporary art world. People who would never have access to a gallery are now exposed to art and artists in ways appropriate to them.

The link between Teachers, Artists and Art Educators is established and truly unique. The model that has developed is so successful that we have now shared it with Exeter House School, The Mead, adults at Ashton Street (now called The Medley), Paxcroft Mead school and Mencap South Wilts.

*For further information about The Multi-Sensory Art Project please visit the website [www.themultisensoryartproject.co.uk](http://www.themultisensoryartproject.co.uk) or contact Rebecca Churchill [m.s.a.p@larkrise.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:m.s.a.p@larkrise.wilts.sch.uk)*

**The Roche Court Educational Trust** is a charity based at the New Art Centre Sculpture Park and Gallery for schools, colleges, universities, adults and specialist groups from across the country. Experienced staff work closely with all visitors and provide guided and interactive tours and workshops. Planned events and artist led projects are a key aspect of the educational programme and are designed to encourage and promote the enjoyment of looking at artworks and learning through discussion, observation and expression.

The New Art Centre, Roche Court, is a sculpture park and gallery set in the spectacular Wiltshire landscape. The New Art Centre specialises in late 20<sup>th</sup>-century and contemporary art and includes works by Barbara Hepworth, Anthony Caro, Antony Gormley and Richard Long. The award winning Gallery and the contemporary domestic exhibition spaces, the Artists House and Courtyard Pavilion, were designed by the architect Stephen Marshall. The New Art Centre Sculpture Park and Gallery is open every day and admission is free.

*For further information about RCET please visit the website [rochecourteducationaltrust.co.uk](http://rochecourteducationaltrust.co.uk) or contact Emma Kerr, Head of Education: [emma@sculpture.uk.com](mailto:emma@sculpture.uk.com) or 01980 862802*