



14 May 2018

***Artists with disability connect with Adelaide's Sikh community through shared experiences of difference***

South Australia's largest multi arts organisation for artists with disability, Tutti Arts, has forged a new relationship with Adelaide's Sikh community through shared experiences of difference.

Tutti's Standing Up, Standing Out project brings together disabled and non-disabled artists and members of marginalised communities to explore and celebrate diversity, difference and commonality through visual art, music and song.

The outward symbols of the Sikh faith, such as the turban, mean that most Sikhs know what it is like to be identified publicly as different and how that can trigger a variety of responses like fear, curiosity, distrust or attraction.

This year, Tutti Visual Artists have been engaging with members of the Sikh community through reciprocal visits between Tutti's Brighton base and the Allenby Gardens Gurdwara Sahib (place of worship for Sikhs), turban-making and turban-tying.

This creative exploration will culminate in two city centre exhibitions which open this month at Nexus Arts Gallery and the Hawke Centre's Kerry Packer Civic Gallery. Tutti Artists have embellished turban cloth with their art and through this process the turbans emerge as new, shared objects that bypass cultural differences and unite rather than define. Gracing the gallery in their unwrapped state, these turbans will be accompanied by a series of photographic works that capture this developing relationship. Reflecting the different styles of the artists, the works will be bold and colourful with details and textures that invite a closer look.

Also this month, the musical aspect of Standing Up, Standing Out will begin. Artists from Tutti's Choirs and Music program will participate in workshops with renowned Aussie hip-hop artists L-FRESH The LION and Mirrah. With cultural and ancestral roots which trace back to the Sikhs from Punjab, India, L-FRESH is an artist of rare integrity and relevance, whose music strives to break down cultural barriers and make our society a better place as much as it does to illuminate and entertain. Mirrah dons multiple hats as a musician, radio host, poet, rapper, vocalist and a graduate in youth work services. L-FRESH and Mirrah, together with Tutti's Choral and Music Coordinator

## Media Release

Carol Young (Mr Burns 2017, State Theatre Company) and Tutti Artists, will explore blending old skool hip hop with traditional choral harmonies to create a genre of hip hop powered by diversity and ingenuity. The musical component of the project will produce a public performance unique in South Australia.

Both the Sikhi and Tutti communities know the challenges and adversity that difference can create. Through this project, these two communities can stand together and be a platform for examining what it truly means to be Standing Up, Standing Out.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

#### Project Details

##### Exhibitions

1. Nexus Arts Gallery, 31 May – 13 July 2018
2. The Hawke Centre's Kerry Packer Civic Gallery 23 May – 13 June 2018

Opening night Thursday 31 May 5.30pm at Nexus Arts Gallery followed by a welcome at the KPCG

Music workshops with hip-hop artists L-FRESH The LION and Mirrah begin 23 May 2018.

#### About Tutti Arts

Tutti Arts is South Australia's only multi-arts organisation where artists with a learning disability create visual art, music, theatre, film, new media and installations for a growing local and international audience. In 2017, Tutti won Arts South Australia's Ruby Award for Sustained Contribution by an Organisation or Group.

Tutti Visual Artists for Standing Up, Standing Out: Aimee Crathern, Chris Dyke, Jianna Georgiou, Dougie Jacobssen, Megan Long, Hannah Mexted, Giorgio Mouzakis, Charlie Taplin.

Supporting Artists: Ellen Schlobohm, Daniel Connell

#### Funding Partners

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