



EMLYN MIXED MEDIA

Emlyn, from Manchester spoke to us about his passion for art in all its forms. He especially enjoys photography on his DSLR camera. Everything from colours and textures, to animals and nature inspire his creations, and as a member of the transgender community, he has found that creating art has helped him to discover and express his true self.

How did you discover your passion for art and creativity?

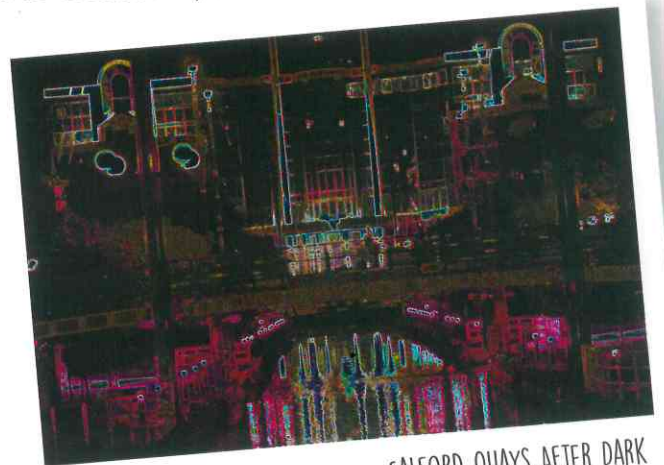
I have always had a love for art - growing up I was told I wasn't good at it, which was difficult. But then I joined Venture Arts and they have helped me gain confidence as an artist. We need to learn to accept art however it appears, I believe every person can be creative if they are encouraged and supported to bring it out.

What art projects are you currently working on at the moment?

I am working on a ceramics fish project with Venture Arts, I have had pet tropical fish for years so I have been trying to make different species. Due to lockdown, the classes are done on Zoom. I recently made an Albino Axolotyl (Mexican walking fish) it still needs drying, painting, varnishing and then firing in the kiln at the studio.

Tell us about your self portrait?

I edited this photo of myself by merging my proloquo2go AAC app with myself. I think it shows my non-verbal side in a positive way. I am not really a fan of photos of myself but I like this one as I was happy at the time and away in my own thoughts.



SALFORD QUAYS AFTER DARK

Do you find art helps you deal with difficult times?

Art has helped me cope with with things which made me very anxious and upset. Art keeps me going, it is both a distraction and a therapy. It keeps me calm. I work once a week with a very cool PhD student to help her understand why artists with a learning disability are ignored in the mainstream art world. Through this project, I have been able to work with the Wellcome gallery in London and the Scottish Sculpture Workshop.



'NEURODIVERSITY IS BEAUTIFUL!
Showing the spectrum of autism
through colour using oil pastels.

What would you like to try next? What are your artistic ambitions?

I want to have my work in exhibitions, I do have one coming up online and it will be my first ever exhibition. I want to self publish and make a photography book of nature in Manchester. I want to get more well known as an artist and sell my work to raise money for charity. I want to volunteer with children with learning disability and/or autism helping them develop creativity.