



Meja Paulauskaite

ShapeChangers: Meja Paulauskaite



What were your initial thoughts when you heard about this project?

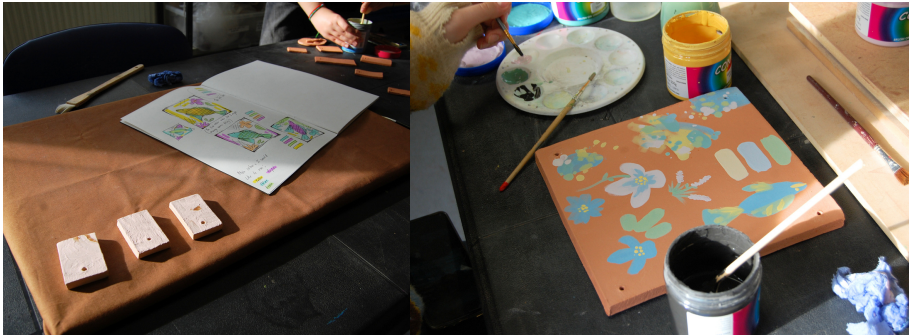
When the theme wildlife was mentioned, the first thing I thought was fish. Since Aloa has quite a lot of water and is almost surrounded by it, fish seemed like a fitting animal for me to do.



What are your artistic interests?

I love using water colours a lot and I enjoy using colour ink pens and coloured pens. I also enjoy abstract art or oil painting, they are some of my most favourite mediums, however I have never painted with oil paints before but I would love to one day.

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What inspired your artwork?

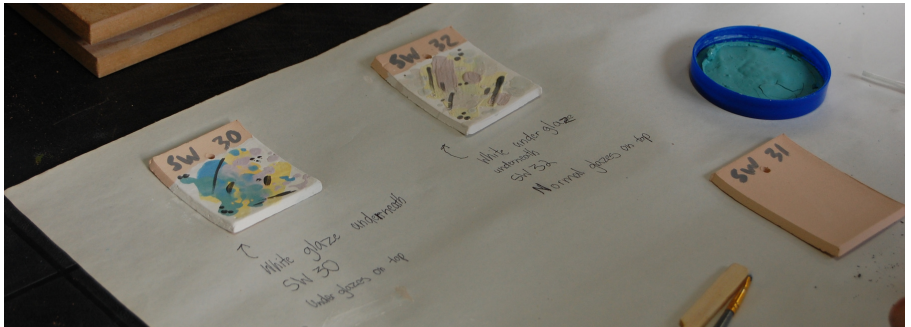
The theme was wildlife in Alloa and since Alloa is surrounded by water, fish was the only thing that came to my head. I also wanted to include some elements of nature like flowers. I also wanted to use bright colours to attract attention but also make someone happy or lift up their mood.



What do you think you have learned from taking part in this project?

I have learned how to work with clay better and professionally. I also learned how to use glazes and I find them interesting because they can turn out a completely different colour.

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How have you found working in Reachout's studio?

I loved working in the Reachout studio. All the people and the staff are very friendly and all of us get along quite well. They made me feel welcome and safe. The studio also has very good materials for everything and people that come to the studio are very creative.



Can you describe the process of making your artwork?

My initial thought was to make a big tile with a big pattern of small fish and use glazes to make a tartan like pattern. However, I changed my idea. I decided to do multiple tiles with similar designs but all of them would be placed quite close to each other. From the start, I really wanted to use bright and colourful glazes so that when people passed my pieces, they would feel a sense of happiness or lift up someone's mood. I've made test tiles testing out the thickness and see what thickness would be suitable for me to use. I also made

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some normal square test tiles so I could test out my glazes I would like to use for the final pieces. I had come across some difficulties along the way, those were that the glazes I tested out didn't turn out how I wanted. Some were too dark or turned out slightly transparent or the tile that I rolled a piece of textured fabric and then glazed over the design of the fabric disappeared because of the glaze. I then made more test tiles where I tested out new glazes on my final pieces and was very happy with the results. I used the new glazes on my final pieces and was very happy how bright and colourful they turned out at the end. I have developed many skills throughout this project and I know more about clay than I did before. I enjoyed working with the clay and the glazes and the overall experience was great.

