

Imagine – pictures of the mind



Tabitha Newman celebrated the opening of her first solo show at The Assembly House in Norwich on the 7 August 2007. Tabitha is seventeen and lives in long-term foster care in Norfolk.

Her autism causes Tabitha to find it difficult to interact with other people. Often she is far happier concentrating on drawings that repeat choreographed variations of Disney characters in brightly-coloured pencil.

Tabitha exhibited four pieces during Flourish 2006, a national project showcasing artworks by looked-after children and young people. All of these works were sold to admirers of her work, including the Chief Executive of CAFCASS.



Her show at The Assembly House includes drawings from the past few years, including a piece representing myriad versions of herself smiling and hugging friends and family. 'Girls Allowed' have begun to feature in works, amongst the Little Mermaid, Snow White and Cinderella. Most recently Tabitha has completed a portrait of all the male characters from Disney's animations (Aladdin, Winnie the Pooh, Mowgli).

The Lord Mayor of Norwich attended the preview and has asked Tabitha to choose a drawing which will be left to the City and shown in his chambers. Many pieces are for sale during the exhibition.

Imagine – pictures of the mind, 6–19 August 2007, The Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich.



Clockwise from top left: visitors included members of Tabitha's family, carers, social workers and friends; The Assembly House in Norwich; Tabitha drawing during the private view, referring to a previous piece.