

Transcription of New Ways Forward conversation with Charlotte

Charlotte: My name is Charlotte and I'm an artist with Artists First.

Amelie: Thank you so much Charlotte for giving up your time to speak to us. We really really appreciate it. I know that this is the first time that we've spent together, so even more special for me to spend some time with you. So, as Andy might have said, I'm going to ask about 4 or 5 questions just to try and understand your experience and what it's been like to be a part of Artists First. So, first question, quite a general one. What has it been like to be a part of this group?

Charlotte: I've really liked working in the group, with art. With the group. It's really different from just doing it yourself. I've learnt lots of things and developed things.

Amelie: And do you feel like working with other artists has helped you to develop your own style of art?

Charlotte: Yes. It really has helped me. It's helped me to use my art in a different way.

Amelie: There's a particularly lovely painting on the Artists First website Charlotte, called *Firebird*. I wondered whether you wanted to tell us a little more about that particular painting.

Charlotte: I did Firebird and I used lots of different colours.

Amelie: Looking at it on the website, the colours really pop. I think you've got the black outline of the Firebird against the multicoloured paints.

Charlotte: Yes, yes.

Amelie: Really bold and colourful. I wanted to ask you about some other paintings Charlotte. I've seen Firebird but I'm aware I probably haven't seen your other paintings. Are there any other paintings that you've done that you'd like to talk a little bit about?

Charlotte: Yes. I really liked using my art with the Firebird but also using strong colours. I liked working on the large canvases.

Amelie: I know you've spoken a lot about bold colours. Is that something that you particularly love? Bright, sparkly colours?

Charlotte: Yes - I really love bright colours.

Amelie: We've spoken a little bit about your artwork Charlotte. With Artists First, I think you've also had the chance to go on trips, do workshops. Have any of these stuck in your mind?

Charlotte: Lots of areas that we visited and made art. Really interesting. The RWA in Bristol - there's lots of places that we've been. Arnos Vale aswell - that was great.

Amelie: And what about the feeling of sharing your artwork, showing your family and friends?

Charlotte: I love sharing and being involved with my family - it's good.

Amelie: Do you feel like its brought you confidence and happiness?

Charlotte: It's improved my confidence.

Amelie: So just thinking a little bit about the future Charlotte, would you like to continue making your art?

Charlotte: Yes. I really want to carry on with my art. Hopefully exhibit. I work out at Bath, at EDS Educational Day Services and I do lots of different artwork there. Needlework there - lots of different things. So I will carry on as an artist.

Amelie: Brilliant. Thanks Charlotte. Is there anything you'd like to say that I've forgotten to ask you about?

Charlotte: No - I'm happy with that.