

The Journey of Genine's painting world



When Genine first started her Art Therapy sessions at Extra•Ordinary People, she was just drawing markings resembled “H” and “9” using a red marker. She further progressed to explore making different marks with red marker pens in different ways. She wrote her name and experimented with different strokes, line length, movement, grip and shapes. It was about the 8th session that her strokes became bolder. Lama suggested we can move to massive size canvases with bold thick paint. It was then she told me, “Your daughter will have her own exhibition”. Her comments came to me as a surprise and inspiration for new hope. I was skeptical at the start yet was confident that if I provided the space for her to be herself, this may take her in a different direction.

“Possibilities open up to us in life only if we are able to see them”, are words of encouragement by Lama that allowed me to see beyond the horizon.

Genine started her Art Therapy sessions with Mahesh Iyer, under Lama's guidance and supported their sessions with her relevant knowledge to improve and expand Genine's learning capability. Throughout the one and half year, I was thankful to have both Mahesh and Lama work with Genine. As she started her journey in the sessions with Mahesh, Genine built a wonderful “painting” relationship with him where she feels comfortable expressing her thoughts during each session. It came to our surprise when she first articulated the words ‘I want to choose’, a validating expression that allowed her to define what she wants and when. Throughout the time we had various ways of engaging Genine, where Lama joined in to facilitate music and movement while Mahesh attended to the art process. Moments were magical and I am grateful for Extra•Ordinary People's unique experience to take Genine's panoramas and landscapes in collaboration with Jan Larsen for this year's exhibition NEW YEAR | NEW NORMAL. I felt held and supported by Extra•Ordinary People throughout this whole experience of setting up the exhibition.

With deep gratitude to all and to the Co-founders of Extra•Ordinary People for starting this wonderful initiative.

Yours Sincerely,

Joysline