



ART WITH HEART

DOWN SYNDROME ARTISTS IN SALFORD AFTER WORLD TOUR

THE Heart & Sold exhibition has proved to be an international sensation - a showcase for work by artists connected by their experiences of living with Down syndrome. It has toured the world, previously visiting Manchester and jetting off to New York, and now the acclaimed exhibition of paintings returns to the region - this time at Salford Museum & Art Gallery until June 5. Launched in 2012 with the support of the UK Down's Syndrome Association, the exhibition was really the first of its kind to offer a prestigious and global platform to artists who all happen to have a Down syndrome. It was the singular vision of the show's director Suzie Moffat, whose son Max was born with the Down syndrome and

developed a love for the arts. Here, says Suzie, they met many talented artists who also lived with the condition but whose work was not being shown by mainstream galleries, and so the artists themselves were unable to experience the potential career opportunities the art world could offer. Heart & Sold became a launch pad for that idea, and now it supports more than 30 working artists to reach galleries and art collectors all over the world - including Hollywood acting legend and former governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger. The latest show, now open at Salford, includes a limited edition print of Rupert Flying Over The Clifton Suspension Bridge, following the acceptance of the original painting by Tazia Fawley by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge as a gift for Prince George's nursery.

As well, it features an eclectic mix of painting, photography, and line drawings - all of which, says Suzie, offer up answers to the ways in which the condition provides the artists with an original perspective on the world - from unsettling to funny - and different instincts about life and humanity. Speaking about the show, Suzie added: "We work solely for the sake of the art and the artists. We build their confidence through encouragement, support and often working closely with family and carers." This is the longest run that the show has had anywhere on the tour, and Salford's curators say they are "immensely proud" to see it return to the region.

● Salford Museum & Art Gallery / salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk / 0161 778 0800 / Until June 5 / 10am-4.45pm Mon-Fri 12-4pm Sat & Sun / Free

