How can the arts empower people and services

Hungarian experiences through ÉTA National Association of Social Organisation and Foundations in the Service of the Mentally Handicapped

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project manager

ÉTA

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ÉTA National Association

- Non-profit, non-governmental organization
- We provide professional assistance to our member organizations who mainly support people with intellectual disabilities
- Our partnerships: 60 NGO across Hungary
- Our organization cares for about 8000-9000 people with disabilities

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ÉTA and the Arts

- For us it is very important to support art activities and artistic carriers
- We can set many good examples through our member organizations
  - Around 50 of the 60 member organisations do art activities
  - 15 of the 50 organisations give people with disabilites the opportunity to do art activities in a supported employment
  - 16 of the 50 organisations use art therapies (music, dance, drama, handcrafts)
  - At most member organizations the art activities have an important role in their daily life

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Our Association supports these partners activities by

- Organizing different applications and programs for supported employment and art activities (financial support)
- Giving them the opportunity to show their handmade products at exhibitions, our events and festivals (they can also sell these)
- Appearance opportunities for art groups at our events

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The art activities…

- Give the people with disabilities the opportunity to show their talents
- Help them to spend their freetime usefully and differently
- Give them a bigger chance to have a complete life
- Can be their work also so they can get payment for their art works!!
  - **People with disabilities have the opportunity to make their own money!**

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Challenges

- There are few artists who have time beside their work to collaborate with a a non-profit organisation for an extended period of time
- Lack of experts who are good also in art activities
- Lack of proper places for art activities
- Lack of equipent, materials
- Lack of financial support

Good practice I.

NEVER GIVE UP Band and NEVER GIVE UP Gospel Choir

- The NEVER GIVE UP Band where musicians and singers with disabilities work as professionals.
- THE NEVER GIVE UP Gospel Choir, is a choir where people with and without disabilities sing, mainly gospel songs, together.

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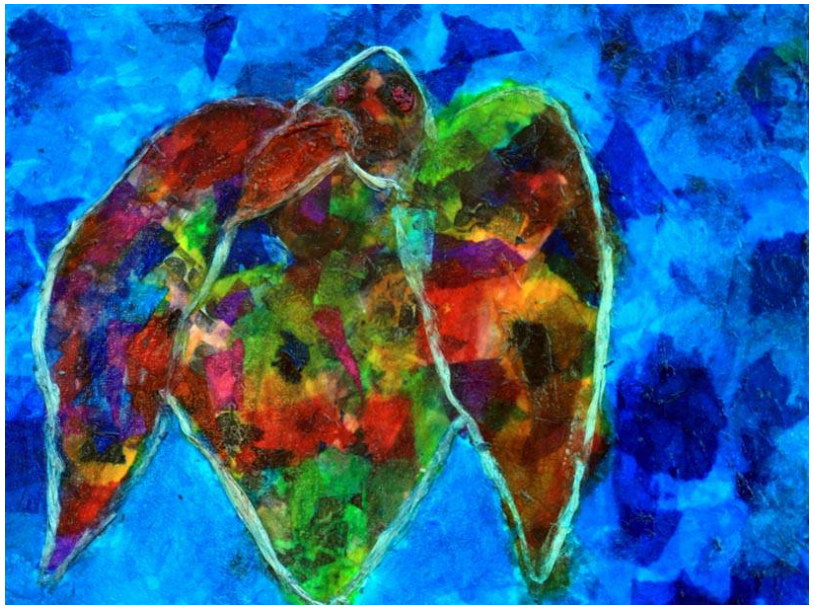
Good practice II.
Latern ’92 Foundation’s fine art camps

- They hold integrated camps, where people with intellectual disabilites and students work together. The aim of these camps is to help mentally handicapped people express their feelings like everybody else.
- After this camp, the Foundation organises an exhibition displaying the creations what are made there.



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Good practice III.
The Cloudwalkers Drama Team
(Foundation for the Disabled)

- The Cloudwalkers Drama Team was founded in 2003 with the aim of broadcasting basic human feelings through gestures and body language.
- The members of the team are adults between the ages of 20 and 45 who are mentally and physically challenged.

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Thank you!

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