

25-31 August 2022, 6-11pm

Westwood Place, Melbourne & other public spaces in the CBD

# Beyond the Stigma - Laneway Light

Artists from all walks of life,  
with one unifying experience.



everyone is welcome at **cohealth**

**cohealth**  
care for all

cohealth acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and waterways on which our offices stand, the Boon Wurrung, Wurundjeri and Wathaurong people, and pays respects to Elders past and present.

We also give a special acknowledgement to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who contributed their artwork and imagery to this installation.

We acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the historical and ongoing impact of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' living culture is the oldest continuing culture in the world, and we acknowledge that the land and waterways are a place of age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.



Scan this QR code to view the **Beyond the Stigma – Laneway Light** installation online, and read the artist profiles.

## welcome from cohealth

At cohealth we have a deep commitment to promoting human rights and health equity. We know that stigma, discrimination and exclusion have a devastating impact on health and wellbeing.

The World Health Organisation tells us that illicit drug addiction is one of the most highly stigmatised health conditions globally.

It is this stigma which can push people into darker and less safe parts of the community - both physically and metaphorically - and further away from the health services and support they need. It also leaves them at greater risk of overdose and other drug harms.

Addiction can affect anyone, of any age, any socio-economic background or any profession. Yet it is still so misunderstood in society; perceived as a choice rather than a health condition.

Beyond the Stigma - Laneway Light aims to create conversations about a complex issue, humanise people experiencing addiction and promote health-based responses to drug use in the community.

The artists in this exhibition represent people from all walks of life, from people experiencing extreme disadvantage such as homelessness to those whose lives are otherwise very conventional.

When we put out the call for people to participate in Beyond the Stigma - Laneway Light the response was overwhelming. People wanted the chance to be part of something positive and uplifting, something which helped to recast the stereotypes portrayed in mainstream media.

We received artworks, images and photos from all over Victoria, and also held an art workshop in the CBD for people who don't have access to art materials or digital technology.

Every artist in this exhibition brings a personal experience of drug dependence, but no two experiences are the same.

I want to thank them for their fearless and generous contribution to this thought-provoking installation that will be seen by audiences all over the city and beyond.

**Nicole Bartholomeusz**  
Chief Executive, cohealth

cohealth proudly presents a unique public art installation that shines a light on the stigma surrounding drug dependence.

Laneways and other spaces in the city will be lit up with a digital light projection created by people who have a lived experience of drug addiction, and their families.

Mobile projector bikes will also take to the streets each night, bringing the light installation to other parts of the city.

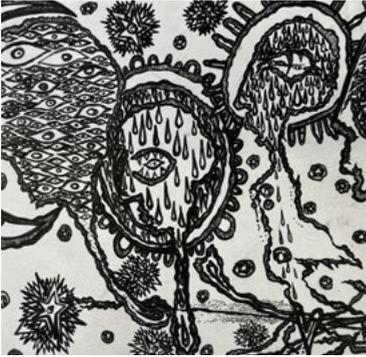
## **Artists from all walks of life, with one unifying experience.**

Featuring over 100 images created by nearly 30 people, *Beyond the Stigma – Laneway Light* is a way for people who have experienced addiction to be heard in a world where they too often have no voice.

The artists behind these images range in age from 7 years to 65 years.

Some of the contributors are homeless, some are in rehab, some are survivors of abuse, some are studying their PhD, some are family members of people who have died of drug overdose, some are professional artists, some are living in the suburbs and others are living in regional Victoria.

But the one thing they all have in common is that they have been affected by drug addiction – either directly or indirectly, past or present.



**Untitled**  
Adrian Hoare



**Untitled**  
AJ, 9



**Grave for a Fish**  
Alice Kelson



**The sun still shines  
at our place**  
Annie Kuhne



**Recovery and  
reconnection**  
Anonymous



**Book**  
Bill Backhouse



**The Watcher**  
Brendan Johnson



**Recovery is Worldwide**  
Cherie Short



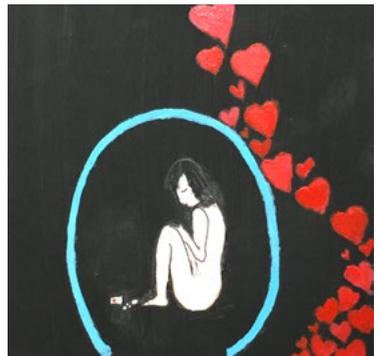
**Self-portrait**  
Chris Ellis



**My daughter**  
Darcy Patterson



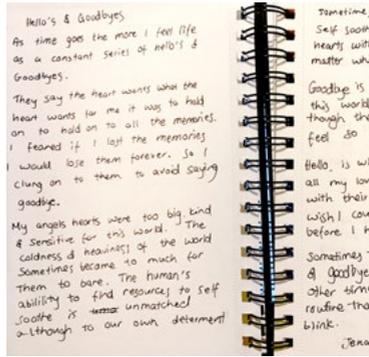
**Under a lockdown lens**  
Dixon Banks



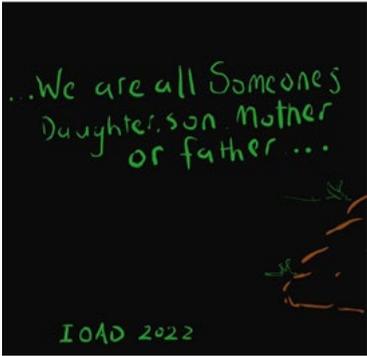
**The Wall of Stigma**  
Gillian Clarke



**Untitled**  
James Dunn



**Hellos and goodbyes**  
Jenaya Cooper



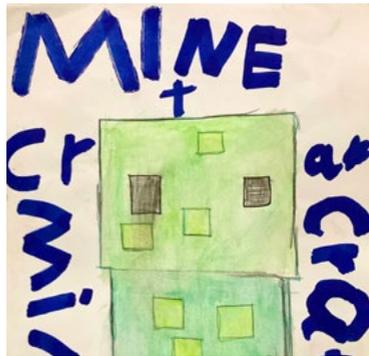
**Someone's child**  
Josh Burnside



**Real Unreal concept**  
Josh Sampson



**"my saving grace"**  
Katharina (Nina Storey)



**Minecraft**  
LD, 11



**When love and  
hate collide**  
Lisa Peterson



**Untitled**  
Lubby



**Layers**  
Lucia Maiuolo



**Overdose Awareness from  
Louisiana, USA**  
Lilley Harvey ...



**My hands were  
somewhat tied**  
Patricia Paterson



**Cardboard  
Bedroom Suite**  
Rissa Belle



**Violinist**  
Samantha Weyman



**Path to Recovery**  
Talia Dow



**Stuck in a trip**  
Taylah M

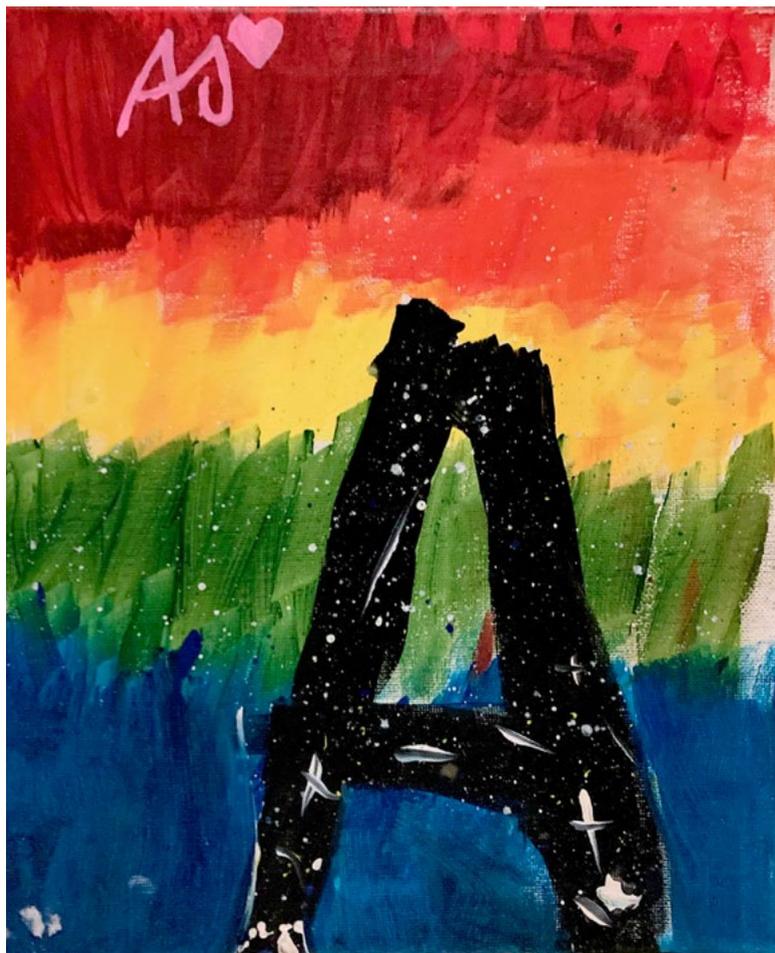


**Make The Call**  
Tom Schroeter



**Untitled**  
Adrian Hoare

Inspired by snapshots of my life.



**Untitled**  
AJ, 9

AJ did this painting for her dad.



## **Grave for a Fish**

Alice Kelson

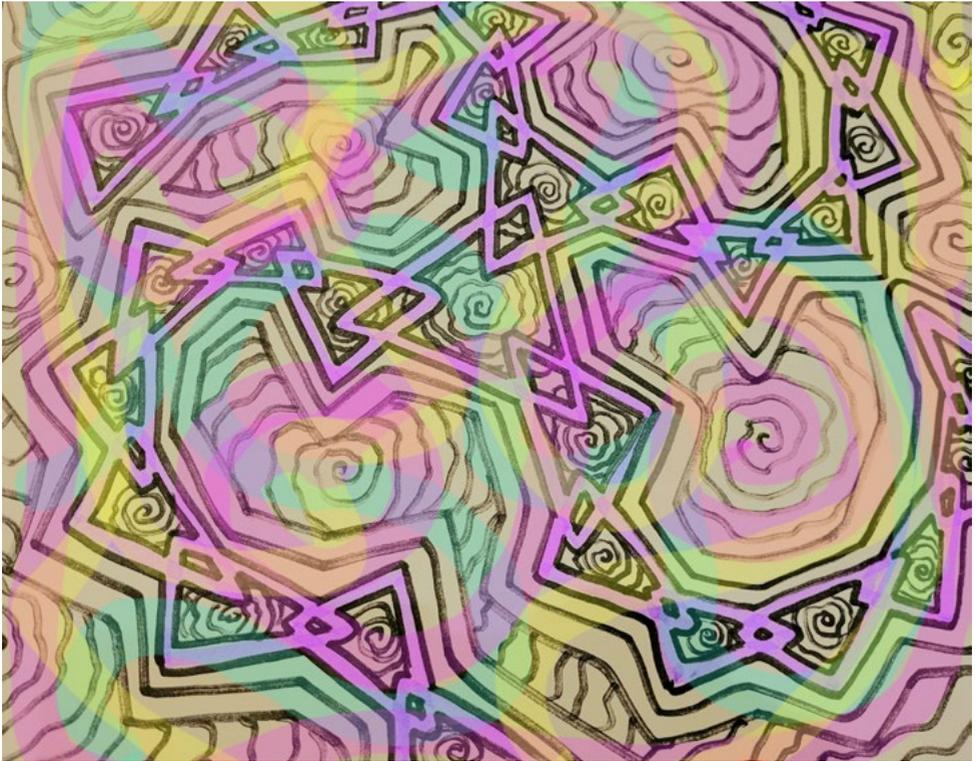
If I were to fill this bowl with water, it may nourish this earth's skin, but only momentarily, because there is a deep open split which allows the water to leave - and the fish would most likely leave with the water. That's not something I am prepared to do, it seems like a big and hard task. And I wouldn't want the fish to get a bowl of water so virtuous and sweet, only for an hour, or however long it may take the water to seep out and disappear. We all want to feel held and nourished and safe.



## **The sun still shines at our place**

Annie Kuhne

The photos sum up our life on the farm and shows things that matter to us as parents, and how they have helped us through our own mental health challenges which can be caused by our loved ones' struggles with addiction.



## **Recovery and reconnection**

Anonymous

“What does it mean to recover something? It means to find it again.” - Gabor Mate

I think I abandoned parts of myself before the drug use so could we remove the part when it was during my drug use.

I think ultimately my drug use was an attempt at a solution to something i didn't know how to solve. It created more of a disconnect but I don't think it's fair to say it was the root cause of my disconnection.

My art work is about Reconnecting with parts of myself that were lost or abandoned during my drug use. It is about Reconnecting with the world and finding the colour and beauty in that.



**Book**  
Bill Backhouse

This artwork evolves over time. Pages leak into each other. Simplicity becomes complexity.



**The Watcher**  
Brendan Johnson

It's about the sense that amongst all the confusion that there's someone watching over you, as you deal with the confusion and pain and suffering, as you make good choices and bad ones.



## **Recovery is Worldwide**

Cherie Short

I contribute a photo of my Son (Aaron).

Tragically we lost Aaron in August 2015. Forever 26 years young, it still seems surreal, as he was doing so well in this photo.

Addiction is a health issue that deserves a human response.



## **Self-portrait**

Chris Ellis

When I created this piece I was in the depths of my addiction, this was a reflection of how I felt inside during this period of my life. I often found peace in creating art when I was in an altered state.



**My daughter**  
Darcy Patterson

Here is my beautiful daughter Kirsten. She is one of the best works of art I know.

She battled she overcame and she ended up losing the battle.



## **Under a lockdown lens**

Dixon Banks

Lockdown changed the world for me, I decided to take up photography and art as a way to cope with it all with the result being a wonderfully surprising new view of the world.



**The Wall of Stigma**  
Anonymous

Stigma kills people in many ways. This image depicts the barrier that all forms of stigma create and impede people feeling that they are loved, worthy and valuable.



**Untitled**  
James Dunn

## Hello's & Goodbyes

As time goes the more I feel life as a constant series of hello's & Goodbyes.

They say the heart wants what the heart wants for me it was to hold on to hold on to all the memories. I feared if I lost the memories I would lose them forever. So I clung on to them to avoid saying goodbye.

My angels hearts were too big, kind & sensitive for this world. The coldness & heaviness of the world sometimes became too much for them to bare. The human's ability to find resources to self soothe is ~~more~~ unmatched although to our own detriment

Sometimes these things we use to self sooth us can also fill our hearts with ~~wornd~~ worldly temporary matter which can let us down.

Goodbye is often said by things of this world that let us down even though they can also make us feel so warm.

Hello is what I'd like to say to all my loved ones who have struggled with their inner demons. Hello I wish I could say one more hello before I had to say goodbye.

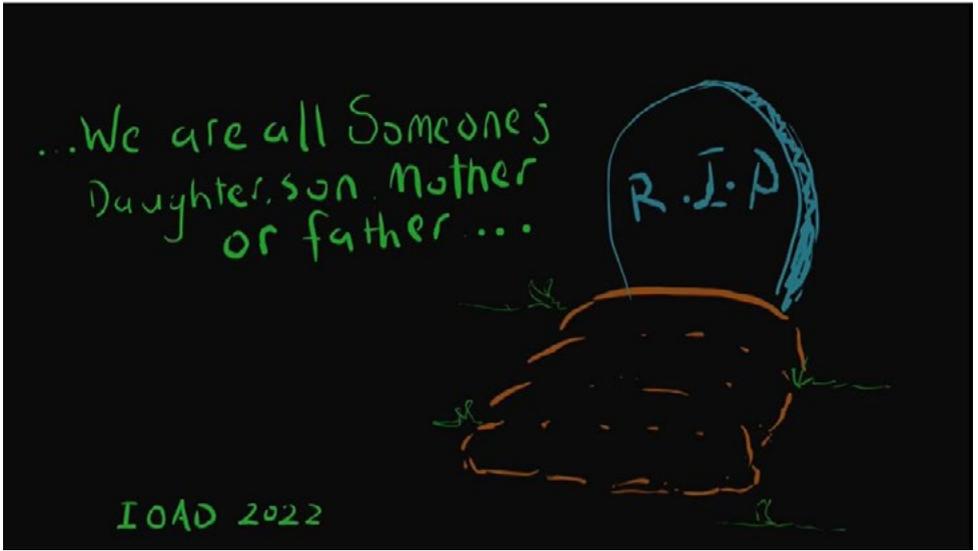
Sometimes the dance between hello & goodbye is a long slow dance other times it's a fast paced routine that passes us by within a blink.

Jenaya Cooper

## Hellos and goodbyes

Jenaya Cooper

Hello, I wish I could say one more hello before I had to say goodbye.



**Someone's child**

Josh Burnside

We are all someone's daughter, son, mother or father.



## **Real Unreal concept**

Josh Sampson

It's about the darkness of being homeless, but that there is light.



**“my saving grace”**

Katharina (Nina Storey)

A mixed media portrait of my mother, a person who opened their heart and mind, allowing me to land after incarceration and start the journey of recovery.



Minecraft  
LD, 11

LD did this painting for his dad.



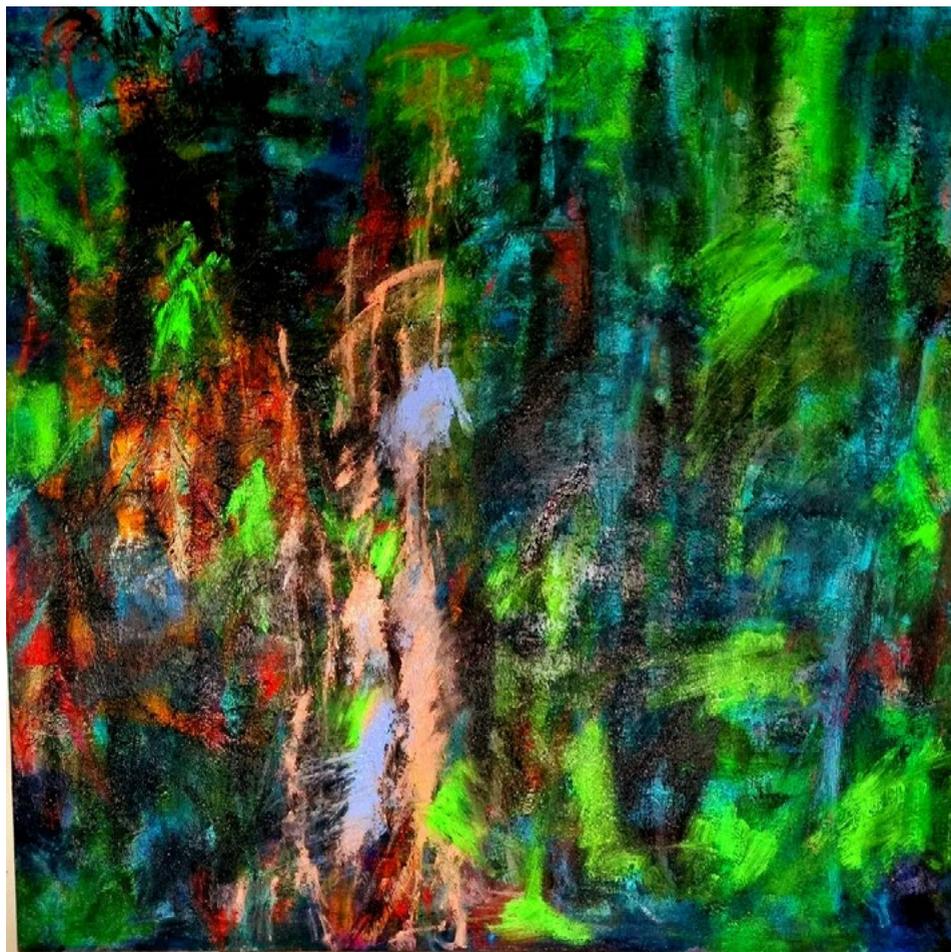
## **When love and hate collide**

Lisa Peterson

I've always had a love/hate relationship with drugs with the bright shiny times being rough around the edges and the bad times often being calm - either way, it leads to broken hearts.



**Untitled**  
Lubby



## **Layers**

Lucia Maiuolo

There are many layers to drug dependence.





## **My hands were somewhat tied**

Patricia Paterson

My hands were somewhat tied as you lived your life using. As a mum I could change or fix most things. However, I couldn't stop, fix or change your situation.

The abuse you experienced as a kid, was I believe the driving force behind your usage, but the amount and the continuity got out of hand.



## **Cardboard Bedroom Suite**

Rissa Belle

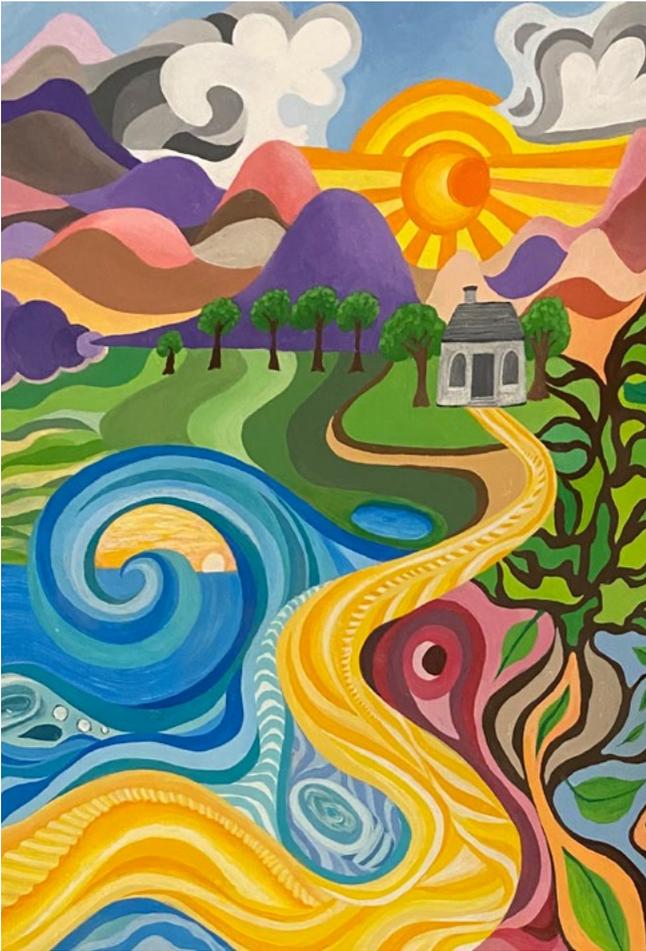
Created from my lived experience of mental health & psychosocial challenges, domestic & systemic violence, addiction & homelessness, I examine the social construct of cultural shaming & stigmatisation of people who are vulnerable & at risk & explore the capacity of the Inner Spirit to heal human suffering.



## Violinist

Samantha Weyman

That talented people overdose as well. It's not always the person you expect to die, that does.



## **Path to Recovery**

Talia Dow

My painting represents my journey from active addiction back to recovery. The vibrant colours represent my bright future ahead of me and the elements of water, forest, mountains and country show my new-found connection with nature.



**Stuck in a trip**

Taylah M



## Make The Call

Tom Schroeter

Calling 000 can save lives. If someone's dropped, make the call. And remember, Ambo's are not cops, it's safe to dial in.

**In 2020, 526 Victorians died of overdose, with illicit drugs contributing to more than half of those deaths.\***

**Each overdose death represents a tragic and preventable loss of life.**

International Overdose Awareness Day, held globally each year on 31 August commemorates those who have been lost to drug overdose and acknowledges the grief of the family and friends left behind.

Learn more about International Overdose Awareness Day:  
[www.overdoseday.com](http://www.overdoseday.com)

**If you're worried about someone who uses drugs or alcohol**

Drug dependence is a complex health issue, not a sign of personal or moral failure. Drug and alcohol addiction affects people from all parts of the community.

cohealth provides a range of specialised services for people who use drugs or/and alcohol and their families and loved ones including harm reduction, physical health and wellness, integrated mental health care, access to pharmacotherapy, specialist GPs, community nurses and alcohol and other drug counsellors, as well as Family Drug Support.

For 24 hour 7 day alcohol and drug support:  
Call DirectLine **1800 888 236**

**Find out more:** [cohealth.org.au](http://cohealth.org.au)

\*Coroner's Court of Victoria  
Drug overdose deaths Victoria, 2011-2020

Thank you to our partners



