
Full - Project Brief

Darkness into Light, Finding Sakinah

Artist and Photographer, Janneth Gil is asking for people to register interest to participate in a series of free workshops to be held between the end of July and September.

Janneth is holding these workshops as part of her Master of Fine Arts project, which she is undertaking within the University of Canterbury Ilam School of Fine Arts. Janneth is supervised by Senior Lecturer in Photography, Tim J. Veling; Senior Lecturer in Film, Dr. John Chrisstoffels and Head of Fine Arts, Aaron Kreisler.

Janneth is asking for people who have in some way been affected by the tragic events of March 15th 2019 to take part in producing a series of art works and exhibition in response to the meaning of the word, "sakinah". The artworks will communicate the participants' personal definition of the word, giving importance to concepts of peace, calm and tranquillity and the need for tolerance and diversity in a healthy modern society.

These workshops will be held over a series four days, spread over four weekends during the above months. Participants will be guided in the making of their own artworks using a range of art processes, including photography and printmaking. No prior artistic experience is needed. Each day of the workshop will last between 4 to 5 hours. Lunch and refreshments plus provision for childcare and parking will be provided on request.

Allocation of times and space within the workshops will be provided to facilitate prayer, prioritizing participants' privacy and any other spiritual needs.

While talking about and making their artworks, Janneth Gil will discuss the meaning of the word 'sakinah' with the group. During these discussions, participants will be asked to think about their feelings for home and community, culture and faith. This discussion will inform the making of their art works and the kinds of messages the participants' wish to convey through it. Final art work will be included as part of a public exhibition, although any participant may ask for their work not to be included. The final exhibition will be curated by respected art writer and critic, Dr. Warren Feeney in close collaboration with Janneth Gil and any number of participants who wish to be included.

Participants will have the opportunity to withdraw from the workshops and / or exhibition at any time if they wish. If they opt to not have the art work they produce represented in the exhibition, Janneth Gil will negotiate a way to acknowledge that more people contributed to the process of making of the work that is on display.

The workshops and exhibition will be documented with photography, sound, text and moving image. However, participants may request not to be photographed or recorded in order to remain anonymous if preferred. Individual participants may state restrictions of use of their image or words within the accompanying consent form.

Janneth Gil will also develop further the work and images collected during the workshops in the following ways:

- Tributes from the Botanic Gardens and the Al Noor Mosque will be utilized as raw material in the creation of inks to be used when printing final artworks made by the participants. Janneth Gil will make these inks, but participants will be made aware of the techniques and materials used and given the opportunity to join her in this process should they wish.
- Captions and titles for the works created may reference written or recorded material produced by participants, but only if they wish to include it. The collection and inclusion of such material, as well as its end use, will be on provision of the participant's full consent.
- Documentation compiled in the form of a physical book or online multi-media archive or both, will be developed in order to contextualise the body of work for the purpose of both artistic record and supplementary material for final assessment towards Janneth's Masters of Fine Arts degree at the University of Canterbury. Such publications or presentations will show the process of the work's development and take into account the limits of consent given by participants as part of taking part in the workshops.

Workshops Dates and Location

Participants can choose one of the following groups:

- **Group 1**
The first set of workshops will be held on the following Sundays:
 - 1st of August at the Christchurch Art Gallery
 - 8th of August at the Christchurch Art Gallery
 - 15th of August at the Christchurch Art Gallery
 - Printing will be made on the 22th of August at Ōtautahi Creative Spaces
- **Group 2**
The second set of workshops will be held on the following Sundays:
 - 29th of August at at Ōtautahi Creative Spaces
 - 12th of September at the Christchurch Art Gallery
 - 19th of September at the Christchurch Art Gallery
 - Printing will be made on the 26th of September at Ōtautahi Creative Spaces

Workshops will be held from 10:45 am till 2:30 pm or 3:30 pm but participants are welcome to stay until 4:30 pm if needed or leave at any time.

Workshops Structure

- Workshop 1 - 10:45 am to 2:30 pm
 - Get to know each other and set out the group rules and expectations.
 - Discuss individual ideas of sakinah – peace, calm and tranquility.
 - Photograph things, places, spaces or actions participants feel give them a sense of calm, or make them feel connected, be that spiritually or emotionally.
 - Learn how to choose photographs or other images to create specific narratives and express ideas.
- Workshop 2 - 10:45 am to 2:30 pm
 - Open discussion and reflection on images chosen. Why have participants chosen to photograph or depict what they have?
 - Image preparation, print and transfer to lino,
 - Linocut marks, carving, tools and techniques
- Workshop 3 - 10:45 am to 3:30 pm
 - Carving work and linocut creation
 - During this process, which is very slow and repetitive, it will be emphasised the importance of being in the moment; of being mindful of actions and how the process of making may heighten a deeper connection with what participants have chosen to photograph.
- Workshop 4 10:45 am to 2:30 pm
 - Inking, proofing and fixing the lino plate,
 - Printing the lino plate.
 - When the work is completed at the conclusion of the fourth workshop, a discussion will be facilitated around how the participants' felt during the process of selecting and making / translating their image from one media to the other and creating their final work.

Support

If you would like free Support for Muslim and their families affected by the March 15th mosque attacks please contact the following:

- National Telehealth Service 1737.
Provides access to free support from a trained 24/7. It is widely promoted as a form of psychological first response during and since the attacks
- Purapura Whetu Trust - 0800 4 WHETU (0800 4 94388).
Provides support to the Muslim community in the Canterbury area in their home and/or the community. <https://www.pw.maori.nz/muslim-wellbeing-referral-form/>

Participants will be able to access project's summary after completion
on www.darknessintolight.co.nz

To register your interest, please contact Janneth Gil via ljj76@uclive.ac.nz

In collaboration Rebecca Parnham, a social worker, one of the founders of the Uniting Canterbury Women and Giving Seeds of Love and the support from Cahaya and Noraini Abbas.

With gratitude and thanks to the Philip Carter Charitable Trust for funding this project and to Ōtautahi Creative Spaces, Warren Feeney, the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū and Hans Araujo and Sudi Dargipour for their support

This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Canterbury Human Ethics Committee, and participants should address any complaints to The Chair, Human Ethics Committee, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch (human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz).

Yours sincerely,
Janneth Gil