Through my work, I hope you’ll find inspiration. I want to inspire you and your children to live the creative life YOU want.

I am an artist and a writer based in Melbourne, Australia. I paint, collage and write in my art journal every day – it’s my best friend, my life coach and a visual feast. Most of my artworks evolve from experiments between the pages of my journal.

I created my award winning marionette show, The Grimstones, from recycled found objects, and we toured nationally and internationally for years. It is now a children’s book series published by Allen and Unwin. The books were shortlisted for the Speech Pathologist’s book of the year award, and commended by the Australian Publisher’s Association for best designed children’s series in 2013.

With funding from Australia Council, I am currently developing artwork for my next book, which will be an art journal and novel in one, featuring a deaf main character.

My very first big art project was building my own mediaeval-styled mudbrick cottage, complete with gothic-arched stained glass windows from an old church. I moved in when I was just 22 and still live there with my family today, raising our own organic meat and vegies.

“The Grimstones is one of the most deliciously dark and touching shows you will ever see.” — The Sunday Mail.

“This glorious story, coupled with the strikingly beautiful and expressive gothic puppets, produces a show that enchants all who witness it.” — Arts Hub
I invite you to step into another world, one filled with quirky characters and a touch of magic. You’ll find dolls and toys that have been loved and abandoned. I love to escape everyday life, and my imagination is filled with other worlds that I realise and share with you through paintings, dolls, assemblage pieces and stories.

Dolls offer the opportunity for us to recreate ourselves and our lives in another dimension. I paint their portraits over and over, looking for the edgy, raw or introspective moment. I play with juxtaposition of scale, depicting small, domestic details that bring these worlds to life.

“You capture the world in unique and beautiful ways. — Jo Dunbar.

[Asphyxia tells] an enchanting story of difference, acceptance and unconditional love, which is absolutely stunning, touching, compassionate and truly endearing.
— The Fix, Adelaide.
I like to paint pieces that represent those of us who are different. For me, it’s deafness. For some it’s another disability or an illness. My paintings validate the lives of people living with a disability, and remind us that we all need to make the effort to accommodate everyone.

“Asphyxia” is an intelligent, determined and fiercely independent woman for whom it is not enough to simply rise above her disability. Rather, she has beaten it into submission by building her life around it – lampooning it, often at her own expense. Her aim, apart from entertaining and thrilling audiences… is to make people think about deafness and how they relate to those who are different. — Herald Sun

I like my artwork to remind us we all need to make the effort to accommodate everyone, to remember not everyone can do everything… — Asphyxia
AN AUTHENTIC VOICE OF PROTEST

I am passionate about DIY, and you’ll find protests to consumer culture in my work, as I believe this is the opposite of finding our inner creative pathway.

I live in Melbourne, a city famous for its wonderful graffiti, which has inspired me all my life. Graffiti is the authentic voice of protest, an image of beauty that is not about money. It’s proof of the DIY ethos of an individual who has not bowed down to the “experts”. I paint graffiti on reclaimed wood to bring inside, where the images can give us pause to think, and remind us how we really want to live.

I minimise waste and resource use by choosing simple, versatile tools and scavenged materials. The imperfections of reclaimed objects become a part of the finished work. I further age them with layers of paint, often slashing and sanding them back to reveal vulnerabilities below.

“Fixie has more energy, creativity and social conscience than all the world’s leaders combined. I’m thinking soome kind of planetary CEO.”
— Tracy Barnes
Hard times come to all of us. They are the moments that we fall into a black hole or that grief consumes us or that time simply slows right down and feels unbearable. They pass. They do. But sometimes it takes a while. Art should disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed. It can represent midnight anxiety and dark times. The artworks I create in this series will acknowledge your feelings, hold you, and show love, caring and understanding, until you are back on your feet.

“Completely fascinating to adults and children alike. — The Advertiser Review

Enchanting and captivating. — The Fix, Adelaide

Personally, I love the directness of your art. You freeze-frame honest moments in a specious world. — Michele Bigden
AND THERE’S MORE

You’ll find zines and artworks that will help nudge you towards your dreams, be they creative, ethical or otherwise. You’ll find a manifesto for living well outside of consumer culture, and vibrant, colourful artworks that serve as a daily affirmation and visual reminder for your choices.

“Asphyxia’s own life story is fascinating. — The Independent Weekly

Asphyxia and Paula now live together in a house in Melbourne which, incredibly, Asphyxia built herself when she was only 22. Despite having no prior building knowledge or skills, and only $10,000, Asphyxia built what she, Paula and Jesse now call their gorgeous home. — SX News

One thing that is clear is that Asphyxia is not to be underestimated … — The Age

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