

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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## **Local handmade creations central to new Campus exhibit**

A collection of handmade artwork created by students and staff at the School of Special Education in Burnie will be exhibited at the UTAS Cradle Coast Campus this month.

The exhibition, *Handmade Paper and Silk*, features about 50 dyed silk scarves along with sculptured and embossed paper artworks.

The collection will be opened at the campus on Friday, 7 November from 6pm.

The school's creations evolved in partnership with papermaker and textile artist and teacher Jan Marinos, who spent 13 weeks as the school's artist-in-residence.

"The aim of the project was to provide an exploratory experience by engaging the senses through focusing on using the elements of texture, form and colour," Jan said.

"Working with children with special needs such as autism, epilepsy and cerebral palsy is very rewarding.

"I learnt more about non-verbal communication and sign language and how to use the art media as a tool to create opportunities for communication."

Jan worked with the school community in creating the collection, using silk scarves and handmade cotton rag paper to explore the elements of texture, form and colour.

As part of the activity, the ancient Japanese technique of Shibori was used, where designs were created by dyes being poured over a silk scarf which had been wrapped and tied around a pole.

The exhibition is supported by the school's Parents and Friends Association and Ability Employment.

It will run at the UTAS Cradle Coast Campus until Friday, 28 November. Bookings are required by 6 November. For more information and reservations phone 6433 3870.

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