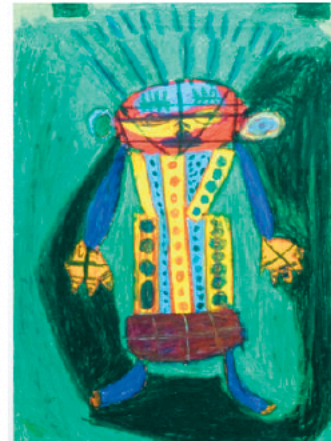
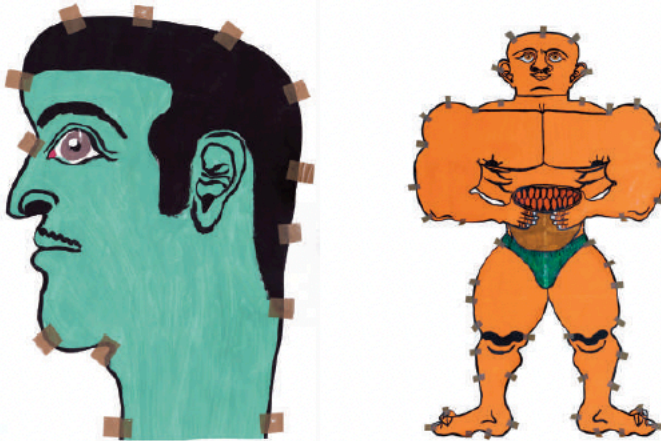


left and centre: Misleidys Castillo Pedrosa



Makoto Okawa

PRISMATIC MINDS

Flowers Gallery, London
July 21 – August 28, 2021

Occupying a prominent spot on the well-known art thoroughfare Cork Street, in London's West End, Flowers Gallery boldly opened their doors to "Prismatic Minds", an exhibition where the merging of margin and mainstream has never seemed so seamless. Gallerist and curator Jennifer Gilbert, along with actor and art influencer Russell Tovey, were given free reign to demonstrate their passion for self-taught art.

This groundbreaking event immediately caused a sensation on the street when artist **Misleidys Francisca Castillo Pedrosa's** lifesize cut-out figure of a bodybuilder was placed in the gallery window. Its flexed muscles stood proud and commanded attention whilst hinting at the discoveries that awaited visitors inside. Pedrosa was born with a severe hearing impairment and does not speak, but has certainly found a powerful voice through her art.

The same can be said for another artist whose work is included in the show: **Susan Te Kahurangi King** stopped speaking at a young age, but shares her world so richly and joyfully through

the skillful draftsmanship that she employs in her brightly coloured drawings.

Colour is a strong theme in "Prismatic Minds" and is expressed brilliantly in the heartwarming little Makoots or felt dolls by Japanese artist **Makoto Okawa**, who also has on display a group of his two dimensional figures in vibrant oil pastels. They are accompanied by the work of fellow Japanese artist **Keisuke Ishino** whose animesque origami figures, which he has made since childhood, never fail to evoke a joyful response in the viewer.

Further flashes of colour can be seen in the painted figures of **Edward Dutkiewicz**, one of which is perfectly placed staring up from the lower level gallery. You can feel its aura, a palpable energy, enticing the visitor to descend the stairs to discover the compelling and kaleidoscopic drawings of **Rachel Heller**. Born with Down's syndrome, Heller has created outstanding art from a young age and, as a regular attendee of Slade's summer school, she is the show's only trained artist.

The venture of "Prismatic Minds" into the artworld's stronghold of Cork Street is undoubtedly a resounding success and will hopefully set the scene for similar exhibitions in the future.

VIVIENNE ROBERTS

Keisuke Ishino, Untitled, 2018

