

## **Pictures of You – Empowering and representing people with disabilities through art**



**Have you ever tried to explain to someone what it is to be YOU? Either to a friend, a partner, your family, a professional – even to yourself?**

In describing the complexity of yourself, words – no matter how articulate we are – can often fail us, be a hindrance even...

Yet an image: a single depiction of mood, Self – both inside and out – setting and style, can say so much more. Imagine having an image that is YOU, that sums up who and what you are, a source of pride that you can keep and show others and say...“this is me”.

That said, as with words, many of us lack the basic ground level skills not just to produce such an image, but to look at ourselves with a sense of perspective, to honestly interpret ourselves.

Care workers and professionals don’t always have the basic or creative skills for this, but imagine having access to an empathic artist, professionally trained in interpreting and gaining insight into a subject; whom you can work with as an equal partner, a mutually beneficial relationship, to express oneself outside of the formal care setting – giving and gaining insight in the process of creating your image in a safe environment – either face to face or online. That is the vision of the “Pictures of You” initiative.

**“Pictures of You” is an innovative program linking physically disabled and mental health consumers with a network of established artists and galleries, to work in collaboration in producing a portrait honestly reflecting you, the human being not just the consumer – a portrait which you get to keep on canvas.**

We look forward to hearing from you!

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