New Children's Cancer Charity gets support from over 100 leading Contemporary Artists including 11 from Royal Academy.

Tuesday 8 January, 2013

Joss Searchlight children's cancer charity has managed to get over 100 of the UK's leading artists, including 11 from the Royal Academy, to support their first ever 'Something Special' Art event to be held at Blackall Studios, Shoreditch, EC2 on Thursday March 14th 2013.

Contributing artists include; Dan Baldwin, Mr Brainwash, Derek Boshier, John Wragg, Maurice Cockrill, Brendan Neiland, Sophie Conran, Sonia Lawson, Kim Wilde, James Butler, Jane McAdam Freud and many more.

Artists have supplied a brief story about the inspiration for their work and why they have chosen to support this new charity. "I wanted to create something beautiful and delicate to illustrate the tiny and fragile nature of a child's brain" said **Sophie Conran** about the bronze sculpture she made specially for Joss Searchlight. "I felt particularly compelled to support this wonderful charity as I nearly lost my daughter when she was a week old to meningitis, an illness also affecting the brain".

"Childhood is precious" said artist **Stephen B Whatley**, who has works in many major collections, including The Tower of London. "I was deeply touched to be asked by Dianne Parkes to donate this work to raise funds for this great charity that has risen from her own tragic loss. Tragedy robbed me of my beautiful young mother in my early teens; and I have often felt 'art saved my life' - helped me survive that insurmountable pain.... I have donated a painting of Fred Flintstone. I have made several iconic interpretations of such well-loved characters - who universally appeals to children and adults alike. As Fred would say,"Yabba Dabba Doo!" to a high bid, for Joss Searchlight!

Pop artist **Marty Thornton** has specially created five highly decorated iconic cereal packets. "As a child growing up in the sixties, there were a lot of "free toys" and free offers in cereal boxes. This is the inspiration behind the collection I have donated to Joss Searchlight. Take a look in the cereal isle in any supermarket, the colours always evoke childhood memories; emptying the cereal out of the packet to get at the free gift a plastic toy. When I found out about this charity I thought these boxes would be a good representation of " childhood". I hope whoever get the artworks gets as much pleasure from them as I did creating them, while helping such a good cause"

Joss Searchlight was set up in 2011 after the sad death of Joss Parkes to a brain tumour. Although a record breaker in being the longest known survivor of a brain stem glioma without treatment, Joss' parents endured the heartbreaking agony of watching their son lose his mobility, vision, voice, the ability to eat and drink and finally the power to breathe.

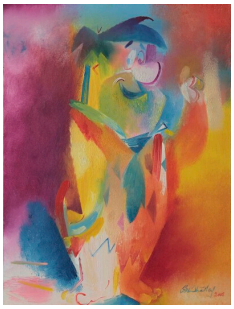
Joss Searchlight offers support to families of children with cancer, advice, specialist equipment and grants money can't buy wishes. "In our first year we have been able to help many children and their families, but we need to be able to do so much more" said Dianne Parkes, Founding Trustee. "We are over the moon that so many, high profile artists have decided to support us. With their help we should be able to make a massive difference to children with cancer across the UK."

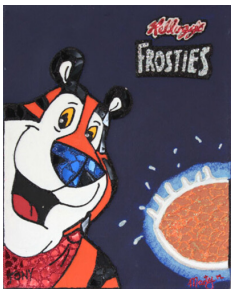
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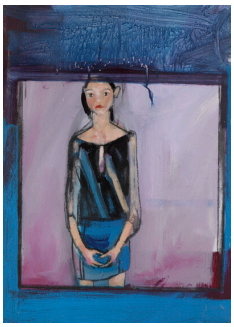
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