



ARTIST STATEMENT JOHN BUTTON

John is a 50 year old man who was born in Australia and of Koori background. John has Down Syndrome.

He is supported to achieve his aspirations by Ivanhoe Diamond Valley Centre.

To his friends, John is renowned as a 'social butterfly', as he ensures he says hello to everyone, especially when he first arrives at a destination.

John is also an avid sports fan, particularly favouring cricket and football.

John has always been creative and has been able to express himself through the arts. Music is a large part of John's life and often doesn't leave the house

without a selection of his favourite CD's.

John is also involved in several drama groups and enjoys being a part of productions.

He loves to paint and puts a lot of time into each art piece. John also loves to show his work to others, thoroughly enjoying inviting and taking friends and family to his exhibitions.

John's art work is recognised for its bright, bold colours and carefully planned brushstrokes.

CBM Australia JOY JOANNE

Joy is 8 years old and lives in Kator-Miro in Sudan

Joy is the happiest child! She laughs a lot, and she is very open and friendly. When Joy was very young she got Cerebral Malaria, and started to behave strangely. Then she wasn't able to talk or walk anymore.

Her parent both work. Her mother is a teacher and her father is a director for the Ministry of Agriculture. Her two brothers and sisters go to school. The parents employed a caretaker for her, who looks after her during the day.

Most of the time, Joy is alone. When we visited her, she was completely alone, sitting in the shade. She is isolated. The CBR (Community Based Rehabilitation) worker Christopher tells us that her caretaker sorts out the basic needs, like cleaning and feeding her. There is no input, no stimulation, no exercise for her.

Her parents brought her to the CBR program after trying a hospital in Khartoum that couldn't help. She received rehab exercises, but her condition was so bad that there was very little that could be done. She has been discharged from the program, but our CBR worker still checks on her once a week. He tells us of one time when he was playing with her and doing some exercises and she cried when he had to leave. Sometimes he sings little songs to her and she remembers them and sings along.

Joy is very happy when people interact and speak to her. The CBR worker is planning to enrol her into a physiotherapy program and speech therapy training. He is confident that with the right interaction she can learn to walk and speak.



Note: directly transcribed from verbal account

