



# Arts Access<sup>®</sup> Aotearoa

WHAKAHAUHAU KATO A O HANGA

Level 3, Toi Pōneke Arts Centre, 61-63 Abel Smith St, PO Box 9828, Wellington 6141  
T: +64 4 802 4349 F: +64 4 802 4357 E: [artsadmin@artsaccess.org.nz](mailto:artsadmin@artsaccess.org.nz) W: [www.artsaccess.org.nz](http://www.artsaccess.org.nz)

## Big 'A' Creative Space Award 2009

### Winner: Jolt Dance Charitable Trust, Christchurch

**Judges' comment:** "It was a difficult decision but the judges were particularly impressed by Jolt's wide community reach from the very young through to the elderly. Its vision to reach out and spread its message to other centres was clearly demonstrated through its education programme, workshops and performances. Jolt's steady growth since opening its doors in 2001 and its links with the community are inspiring."

**Some background:** Jolt Dance enables people with disabilities to have a creative voice. It celebrates difference and challenges perspectives about disability. In 2004, it won the New Zealand Recreation Association Outstanding Programme Award and in 2005, it performed to more than 5000 people in the closing ceremony of the Special Olympics in Christchurch.

There are two main strands to Jolt's work: its education programme and its performances. Set up by its director, Lyn Cotton, with Christchurch City Council support, Jolt Dance has been offering classes to people of all ages and abilities from 2001. These classes are the heart of Jolt's work and have become a place where families and carers can meet in a supportive and positive environment. Students from local secondary schools and overseas visitors are among those volunteering at the classes.

Jolt is committed to passing on its experience and supporting new dance initiatives. It has facilitated workshops in Invercargill, Dunedin and Christchurch, and has established a permanent class in Dunedin.

Public performances are integral to Jolt's work and are a celebration of difference. They provide opportunities for dancers to excel and also raise public awareness of the artistic beauty that people with disabilities can achieve in performance. Since 2002, Jolt Dance Company has created six major shows and established a reputation for innovative and powerful works.

In 2007, Jolt Youth was created to provide performance opportunities for young Jolt dancers. It has premiered two children's shows, both of which were sell-out shows in the Christchurch Body Festival.

Among the feedback Jolt Dance receives, this is what one parent of a son with special needs wrote after seeing a Jolt Youth performance: "The performances provided a wonderful reminder that I am privileged to have a son who can gain so much pleasure from music and movement ... You should be proud of your achievements and your amazing students."

[www.joltdance.co.nz](http://www.joltdance.co.nz)

### **Special mention: Spark Studio, Mt Albert, Auckland**

**Judges' comment:** "Spark Studio exemplifies best practice in achieving its goals through its evaluation process, the nurturing of its art facilitators and working with the community."

**Some background:** Spark Studio was set up in 2000 to provide a safe, contained space where people with disabilities could be assisted to express themselves creatively. From 2007 to 2009, Spark Studio developed a series of in-depth learning programmes in visual arts education, presented by trained arts facilitators. Content includes drawing, painting, print making, book and paper making, 3-D construction and object art. Spark Studio's 2009 publication, *A Vital Practice*, outlines its philosophies and programmes, and their impact on its artists.

[www.sparkstudio.org.nz](http://www.sparkstudio.org.nz)

### **Special mention: Vincents Art Workshop, Wellington**

**Judges' comment:** "A great nomination. We could feel the passion of its people and we applaud Vincents' many years of service to the Wellington community."

**Background:** Vincents Art Workshop is the oldest creative space in New Zealand, set up in 1985 to provide a positive alternative to drop-in day service centres and a creative outlet. What has always distinguished Vincents is its open-door policy and belief that an integrated creative environment helps reduce stigma towards mental illness. Vincents has provided advice, support and an example to many other creative spaces in New Zealand and overseas organisations.

[www.vincents.co.nz](http://www.vincents.co.nz)