

DIGITAL ART FOR ALL

Audrey, POSADA, Head of Service, Les Ateliers “Couleurs & Création”, Centre de La Gabrielle (MFPass).

Background

Centre de La Gabrielle is a private nonprofit organization, founded by the French federation of mutual companies for civil servants, MFP (Mutualité Fonction Publique). Founded in 1972 as a social initiative of the Mutualité Fonction Publique, **Centre de la Gabrielle** is, today, an organization that assists 450 children and adults with development and learning disabilities.

Centre **de la Gabrielle** aims at developing new solutions in order to provide social inclusion for the target group. In the aims of developing new solutions focusing on inclusion, **Centre de La Gabrielle** has created, in September 2011, a studio: **Couleurs &Création**.

Couleurs & Création welcomes aged people from 40 years and more with intellectual disabilities who are not or no longer able to work at full or part time. The Atelier maintains and develops the capacity of the persons through the artistic creation, which is in the center of all activities such as paintings, sculpture, and photo and by developing new methods of inclusion such as a workshop on digital art with the support of the **Association Informatique et Handicap of Centre de La Gabrielle**.

Nowadays, Internet and office tools usage in the world are more than necessary. A special attention has been given to the access of digital art. Elderly with mental disabilities are a public distant to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) due to the nature of their disability, their age and their economic fragility. Through the creation of a workshop: **Digital Art for All**, people with intellectual disabilities are welcomed within **Couleurs & Creation** which proposes adapted activities in order to develop computer appetite of the users.

By facilitating the access to ICT, the project aims at reducing discrimination, respect the equity and promote the enjoyment of their rights at a crucial moment of their existence where their social life could easily disappear.

Activity Report

Digital Art for All offers workshops related to the different stages of production of an object from the design to the exhibition through computer graphics, 3D modelling and 3D printing. With 6 computers, 3 printers (1 laser and a bigger one), 1 scanner, 1 3D digital camera and 3D printer provided by the **Association Informatique et Handicap, Digital Art for All** help people with mental disabilities to express their digital creativity.

Every week, the artistic monitor provides a theme of work. The workshop begins with the presentation of twenty images (works of artists, architectures, and objects) which contribute to inspire ideas. The ideas will become material productions and then will be transferred to the computer through photography or scanning. Each participant brings his subject (image, drawing, object, idea) and works individually with the art instructor in charge of the technical part. After modeling, people can print their 3D object in Abs plastic.

Furthermore, **Digital Art for All** enables to discover, every week, a major artist in the past and contemporary art history through drawing. This more technical activity allows them to understand the perspective, anatomy, display of light and shadows.

Regularly, **Couleurs & Creation** hosts art contributor as specific interventions or residences. The latest was Yro Yto who offered entertaining workshops where people with mental disabilities, have explored new practices combining artisanal to technological and technical methods.

The workshop gives the opportunity to carry out projects that lead the persons with mental disabilities on different artistic scenes of Ile de France.

Conclusions

Thanks to the work done at **"Couleurs & Creation"** users have become more independent enjoying office tools and Internet browsing.

After three years of practice, the users have significantly progressed in the field of ICT and beyond. Elderly with mental disabilities are now able to control software by creating finished works.

This improvement has been possible through the use of computers in the framework of **Digital Art for All**. This approach has helped involving and engaging users of **"Couleurs & Creations"** encouraging them to utilize the digital tools at their disposal.

This type of approach is much more effective in reducing the digital gap of people with mental disabilities than ordinary computer training. Indeed, artistic creation through ICT tools is particularly suited to the situation of mentally disabled as computer graphics' softwares are intuitive and easy to use.

References

Centre de La Gabrielle's Website : <http://www.centredelagabrielle.fr>

Film directed by SFR foundation on digital art Atelier **"Couleurs & Creation"**:
<http://www.centredelagabrielle.fr/spip.php?article167>

Article on Artist residence at **"Couleurs & Creation"**:
http://www.centredelagabrielle.fr/spip.php?article132&var_recherche=couleurs%20et%20creations%20

Labels 2013 - "Rights of care users": <http://www.sante.gouv.fr/l-aih-association-informatique-et-handicap-pour-vivre-avec-le-numerique.html>

Contact details

Bernadette GROSSEYUX, General Director of Centre de La Gabrielle (MFPass) and Secretary General of the Association Informatique et Handicap, Bernadette.grosseyux@mfpass.fr,

Françoise LAURENT, IT Manager of Centre de La Gabrielle (MFPass) and Member of the Board Directors of **Association Informatique et Handicap**, francoise.laurent@mfpass.fr,

Audrey POSADA, Head of Service, Les Ateliers "Couleurs & Création", Centre de La Gabrielle (MFPass), audrey.posada@mfpass.fr,