

Trading Catalyst's

I took a trip out to meet some of the artists down at the Mosaic Sunday market. The first person I chatted to, was Mr Tony O'Connell a self-taught photographer. He admits his inspiration came through his love of travelling from around the world.

Tony is no stranger to the world of business and is a self confessed 'serial entrepreneur' through successfully running his own software company previously before moving into the world of photography.

Tony explains that his new venture affords him the privilege of being more creative and engaging with people much more. I found his display most captivating since his collection of live scenes and people from all around the world were so full of culture and life.

Tony went on to tell me that he came by Mosaic last August where he was able to gain instant support for his interest and talents and those were the ones who gave him, his very first platform to exhibit his collection. Website: <http://www.tocpics.co.uk>



I next spoke with Sophie Michelena – market co-ordinator, who told me that Mosaic had been currently running for the past two and half years and was going from strength to strength. It is managed by artsmix, an organisation Building Enterprise Through the Arts, and has just recently been renamed the artsmix * Market.

She was very excited about the support received from the LEGI funding that would allow them to further support the artists by setting up a work shop on top of the existing market. A fully equipped workshop that artists could use by pay as you go, so they don't have to worry too much about overhead costs of

a permanent space and equipment. Website: www.artsmix.co.uk or email Joy on: joy@artsmix.co.uk or call 07773339358 for more details.

Sophie also mentioned that Mosaic are looking to further support the artists by going into business in support of them to sell their work to local businesses within Leeds. Website: www.artsmix.co.uk or email Gina on: gina@artsmix.co.uk or call 77825508467 for more details.

Enterprise Support along with business advice and courses will also be able to provide artists from areas in Leeds LEGI is targeting, through Karen who you can contact on 07825508466 or Karen@artsmix.co.uk



There were around thirty-five other artists with some wonderful displays of their artwork at the market. I tried to make my way round to meet as many of the artists as possible.

I came across Piers who was busily transforming a tired piece of wood into a work of art. It was mesmerising watching him work at his machine. He told me that he worked for 16yrs as a cabinetmaker, gaining lots of experience that now enables him to produce bespoke wooden furniture and recycled products to sell to clients all over Yorkshire. Website: <http://www.nomdf.com>

My visit was truly delightful, the artists were inspiring, passionate and engaging their talents visibly clear by their products on sale. I ended my day by visiting Sheila Grant's stall the 'Dutch Pot' of delicious traditional Caribbean dishes. I ordered a spoonful of everything she had within her hot trays as it I really couldn't decide what I wanted and just wanted to taste it all.

It is Sheila's 2nd yr of business and she is very excited about her 3rd year, she added that the support of Mosaic and the Catalyst makes all the difference to her in her business and that she is looking to expand very soon into new premises. Sheila also provides outside catering and you can contact her on: 079502 49854



Mosaic market is different from any other market an experience not to be missed, they happen every two weeks (every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month). Check out www.mosaic-arts-market.org or www.artsmix.co.uk for further details to see when the next one is.

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