

Academic turns to art to help students and business leaders understand diversity

Submitted by: Graduate Coach

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PRESS RELEASE

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SUMMARY

Dr Doirean Wilson is a senior lecturer and diversity expert at Middlesex University Business School Experts at Middlesex University (http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/staffdirectory/Doirean_Wilson.aspx) who turned to her skills as an artist to help her students understand and discuss diversity following frequent bust-ups in the classroom.

Her eclectic collection, which now span over 30 paintings and range from the simple to the bizarre, have gone on to help students, HR professionals and business leaders worldwide tackle the growing emphasis on diversity in the global business and recruitment world.

Following a launch event last week the paintings have now gone on sale to the general public.

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FULL RELEASE

LONDON: A collection of paintings that began life as a method to help academics to understand and discuss diversity goes on sale this week following an exhibition to mark their launch.

Dr Doirean Wilson, senior lecturer and diversity expert at Middlesex University Business School, decided to pick up her paint brush and make use of one of her other talents after repeatedly encountering a problem in the classroom with final year business students over the concept of diversity.

The students would often mistake acts of cultural difference as acts of disrespect while working together in teams to address real-life business issues. Lectures that ended in conflict became commonplace and led to Dr Wilson's highly regarded doctorate research that explored respect as an intervention tool to address team conflict.

Dr Wilson said: "As my study progressed I became aware that the cause of the conflict was a lack of awareness and understanding of what respect meant for each other. The students assumed that everyone knew what respect meant so when disrespect occurred it was regarded as deliberate. They did not realise that respect in one culture could mean disrespect in another."

Throughout her study, Dr Wilson began creating rich picture images that enabled her to make sense of her research journey as it progressed. As well as helping to make sense of what was going on at the time, the method was utilised by the teams of business students to help them address their conflict issues, promote harmonious teamwork and achieve successful learning outcomes.

Dr Wilson's study and paintings have attracted interest both nationally and internationally, including in Dubai where her findings have been used as a strategy to help to address team conflict and boost

team-harmony. Her work has received rousing accolade and numerous commendations for what was described as ground-breaking research that explored a topic from multiple cultural perspectives and to a depth that had reputedly never been seen before.

Her study has since helped business leaders, HR policy advisors, captains of industry and students increase awareness of what respect means for those of different cultural backgrounds thereby enhancing collaborative teamwork and communication in local and global relationships.

Last week Dr Wilson's eclectic expressionist style of paintings were put on show during a one day exhibition held at the `Round Chapel` in Lower Clapton, London. The event, attended by a mixed audience of art enthusiasts, scouts and members of the public, culminated in a breath-taking fashion show of couture gowns by Polish designer Greg OxMorka, depicting Doirean's vibrant images.

The event was organised by Paula Powell of `Sphere Hospitality` and included performances by Momo-Watt (cousin of Judy Mowatt backing singer to Bob Marley), formally of reggae band `The Chosen Few`, and Tahira Juma who provided the spectacular entertainment of the night to the delight of those who attended.

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Notes for Editors:

Dr Doirean Wilson's collection includes over 30 paintings to illustrate ways to understand diversity and manage difference and conflict.

High resolution images are available on request. Images can also be viewed on the website at House of Doimulli Creations (<http://www.houseofdoimullicreations.com>)

For interview requests or further information please contact Denise Roberts at The Editor's Chair at denise@editorschair.com or on 020 3239 8262