



“Once-upon-a-time tens of thousands of Australian children contracted polio, recovered, got on with their lives (some even became artists!), and they all lived happily ever after.”
~ The End ~

Or not . . . This exhibition tells a myriad stories through fourteen ‘artified’ leg and torso plaster casts.

Many polio survivors have vivid memories of wearing plaster casts as children to keep their limbs from becoming deformed during recovery and rehabilitation.

Twenty-four artists who have been ‘touched by polio’ in some way - survivors, family, friends - originally contributed thirty-five art works to Polio Australia’s “Touched by Polio: from casts to catharsis” project. The art works have proven very popular and there are now just fourteen pieces remaining for sale. The artists’ creative expressions are many and varied, and the mediums used include textiles, paint, decoupage, and anything else they could think of!

This was quite a ‘cathartic’ experience for many, as they relived the pain of polio infection and a broken childhood before their casts metamorphosed from clinical ‘restriction’ to creative ‘release’.

It is important to note that, following decades of normality, these ‘polio children’ are now in their 50’s or older, and experiencing the often debilitating Late Effects of Polio (LEoP), plunging them back into a life filled with daily pain and increasing muscle weakness. A key problem is that there are very few health professionals who know about the LEoP, leaving Australia’s polio survivors without appropriate diagnosis or management strategies. Rectifying this situation is the focus of Polio Australia. Read more at: www.polioaustralia.org.au

As Polio Australia receives no government or any other regular funding, the “Touched by Polio” art works have been generously donated by the artists for sale, with all proceeds going to assist Polio Australia in continuing their work.

The art...

	<p>1. Boot Full of Blooms by Margaret Greig (Mouth Artist)</p> <p>- Touched by Polio in 1950</p> <p>Sale Price: \$250</p>		<p>8. Reaching by Judith Maxwell</p> <p>- Sister of a Polio Survivor</p> <p>Sale Price: \$200</p>
	<p>2. Bound by Kat Panourgias</p> <p>- Friend of Polio Survivors</p> <p>Sale Price: \$300</p>		<p>9. Splish, Slosh, Splash! by Heather O'Flaherty</p> <p>- Daughter of a Polio Survivor</p> <p>Sale Price: \$400</p>
	<p>3. Butterfly by Dianne Kennedy</p> <p>- Friend of Polio Survivors</p> <p>Sale Price: \$350</p>		<p>10. Steep Ascent by John Marsh</p> <p>- Touched by Polio in 1951</p> <p>Sale Price: \$300</p>
	<p>4. Dancing Queen by Frances Henke</p> <p>- Touched by Polio in 1946</p> <p>Sale Price: \$250</p>		<p>11. Story Time by Frances Henke</p> <p>- Touched by Polio in 1946</p> <p>Sale Price: \$300</p>
	<p>5. Evening Wear by Wendy Davies</p> <p>- Touched by Polio in 1951</p> <p>Sale Price: \$350</p>		<p>12. The Long Climb by Pauline Derrick</p> <p>- Friend of Polio Survivors</p> <p>Sale Price: \$300</p>
	<p>6. My Elusive Dream by Nola Stewart</p> <p>- Touched by Polio in 1945</p> <p>Sale Price: \$350</p>		<p>13. The Party Frock by Marilyn Dixon</p> <p>- Friend of Polio Survivors</p> <p>Sale Price: \$350</p>
	<p>7. Out for a Fling by Margaret Greig (Mouth Artist)</p> <p>- Touched by Polio in 1950</p> <p>Sale Price: \$300</p>		<p>14. Walking Tall by John Marsh</p> <p>- Touched by Polio in 1951</p> <p>Sale Price: \$300</p>

*Complete artwork descriptions and artist profiles
can also be viewed online at
www.polio.org.au*