

## York Kids Open Studios - YorKAOS - back at Spark in February

15TH JANUARY ART ENTERTAINMENT YORK



The YorKAOS committee (Image: Alice Kavanagh)



By Alice Kavanagh

Reporter

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A GROUP of creative youngsters from York has set up an exhibition to feature the art of children across the city.

YorKAOS - York Kids Open Studios: a free public art exhibition which aims to show off the work of children from across York – is set to return to Spark over the February half term with a new exhibition and a series of art workshops.

Taking place from Tuesday, February 17 to Saturday, February 21, this year's event hopes to bring art to more people and raise money for charity with funds going to St Leonard's, The Snappy Trust, The Island, York MIND, and York Explore Library.

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Ada Jobling, 10, was inspired to set up YorKAOS after visiting the York Open Studios two years ago – hosting the first event last February with more than 500 people attending to see 200 pieces of art.

This year, the event promises to be better than before with interactive group art and workshops with professional artists planned for each afternoon of the show.

Two new members – Olive and Ellie – have also joined the committee, with one of last year's team, Seth, also returning for more; all of them attend different schools but became friends through their shared love of art.



Seth and Ada during last year's show (*Image: Alice Kavanagh*)

Seth said: "I didn't know what to expect last year, so I was a bit nervous. This time, I'm excited for the workshops."

Ada agreed, adding: "Last year, it was both exciting and scary, but now it's more exciting because we've done it before. The bit I'm most excited about is putting up the art that everyone makes and seeing what they've all done."

"It was great for us and Spark too, because people could come see the art then get food afterwards too."



Some of the art from last year's show (*Image: Alice Kavanagh*)

Flyers have been sent out to schools across York and children aged five to 11 are invited to submit their art by filling out a short form on the YorKAOS website, after which they will receive a number which they can attach to the back of their art.

They will then be able to drop it off at any York Explore Library branch from January 17, where it will be featured as part of the collection. All types of art that can hang on a wall will be accepted and the group has a projector for video and digital pieces.

All pieces are available to buy on a 'pay what you feel system' with any money raised from the sale of the art going to charity and the event opening will take place at 11am on February 17 with local artists and famous illustrators invited along.



Last year's collaborative piece - 'Of Time and Place' (Image: Alice Kavanagh)

Clare Meadley from St Leonard's Hospice said that the charity was 'delighted' that the event was set to take place again and they were grateful to be chosen as one of the charities.

She said: "It creates such a buzz and it's a great thing for the city."

For more information or to enter your child's art, visit the [YorKAOS's website](#) or visit any branch of York Explore Library.

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