

Creative Strand: Stimulus 11

Sue Austin, Deep Sea Diving....in a wheelchair/Freewheeling

Image description

In this film, a woman Sue, with long brown hair and goggles that look like sunglasses sits in a wheelchair fitted with two clear wing like paddles at the base. The woman and wheelchair are submerged under the sea, Sue and her wheelchair appear to fly through the water. The light blue seawater and whitish sand are visible, the sea life that Sue moves past keeps changing, we see brightly coloured coral and seaweed, shoals of fish and bubbles.



On the Artist

Susan Felicity Austin (born 7 September 1965) is a British disabled artist working in multimedia, performance and installation. Austin is best known for her work "Creating the Spectacle!" in which she uses a specially modified wheelchair to move underwater, using scuba diving equipment; it was performed as part of the London [2012 Cultural Olympiad](#). She 'flies' a NHS wheelchair underwater. She has adapted the chair with battery powered propellers and large perspex aerofoils to control turns. She is in the process of applying for a patent and hopes that one day these chairs will be made available at diving centres across the world. You can read more about Sue and her art at her website www.sueaustin.co.uk

Points to unpack

- Flight / flying
- Bubbles
- Underworld
- Under the sea
- Water
- Shoal
- Formation
- Floating