

Painting self-empowerment

By Belinda Lopez

It may seem curious having a former international tax adviser nurturing your artistic side but Nola Diamantopoulos will tell you she has already been on the journey.

Once a corporate high-flyer in the oil and gas industry, the Rozelle-based artist quit her job ten years ago at 37 to work with mosaics — with almost no experience in the craft.

“It was a calling. I resigned three weeks after making the decision,” Nola said.

She covered the rent for her new studio by teaching mosaics while she was still discovering her own skills, adding self-empowerment elements to her teaching plans.

“The scary part was not the mosaics, the scary bit was the empowerment. Now you can talk about empowerment and spirituality and it’s

not so phobic,” she said.

“[Back then] I thought, ‘oh, they’re going to think I’m a fruit loop’.”

From being a person who baulked at the idea of visiting an art gallery and never studied art at school, Nola now runs a regular course teaching painting, mosaics and drawing to beginners.

“People have this idea that [creativity] is innate, that you’re born with it. It’s like, ‘well, did you learn to read and write?’” she said.

Since taking up teaching, Nola said her opinion of art education had also changed.

“I think parents don’t value it, and therefore don’t encourage their children to pursue it,” she said.

“What they haven’t realised is that creative pursuit, in any form, allows us to think differently. It al-



Former tax adviser Nola Diamantopoulos at her Rozelle art studio, where she teaches drawing, mosaics and painting with a hint of self-empowerment.

lows for better business people, better doctors.”

It is this creative language that she uses to run empowerment classes for her corporate clients, who,

like the Nola of ten years ago, may be feeling as though their careers have gone stale.

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