

A selection of messages and feedback from readers:

Christine R, UK.

Via email: Friday, 27 January 2023

Dear Charlotte

I have just finished your book which gave me so much to think about. You have written such an interesting account of your life so far and with great honesty have outlined its trials and tribulations. But you also highlight some of the immense pleasure that has come your way and shows me what a resourceful and highly talented person you are. You knew your path was to be in art and it's wonderful that you have never abandoned that even though the going was sometimes tricky. Every artist of every kind has self-doubts but like you, that spurs them on to do different work and to keep exploring. So self-doubt has its positive side too.

I really enjoyed seeing the entire scope of your work from when you were a youngster until more recent times. You have always had such an imagination and such a talent. The portrait of your mum on page 229 gave me so much pleasure. In fact, of all your varied works, it is the portraits that I love best. Your empathy towards the sitters is so obvious from their reactions to you. They come over as living beings rather than just people posing for a portrait. Likewise, I love the self-portraits for their honesty and character. I congratulate you on such fine work.

And congratulations too on producing such a thought-provoking book. I'm so pleased to have read it and I thank you for sending it to me.

With much love

Christine xx

Wendy B, NZ

via email: Saturday, April 8, 2023

Kia ora Charlotte

Many thanks for your email, I had good intentions of telling you how much I enjoyed your book and apologise for not carrying through with it. I loved relating your life story with your art and admire your perseverance with following your creative path. The practical side of me suggested that there could be a balance of the commercial and creative in order to maintain an income, but being the non-creative that I am, I guess that's not a solution when your creative side needs nourishment along a different path. I am still bewildered how Van Gogh was unable to sell his art during his lifetime but it commands millions now.

I liked the paper because it reproduced the artwork so well and am intending to keep it in my library.

Kia pai te wiki and best wishes for a successful (and profitable!!) future, warmest regards, Wendy

Geoff R, UK

Via email: Saturday, August 5, 2023

Hello Charlotte

I have just finished reading 'Seeing Clearly'. What a journey you are travelling! It is a very powerful story told with such clarity, integrity and honesty. I found it difficult to put down, so keen was I to see how it unfolded and travelled towards such a positive and uplifting ending. What a rich

catalogue of your work it is too. All the richer for the unfolding story, of course. Thank you so much for sending it to me.

I'm going to send it to Ellie now. We were chatting on the phone yesterday and she is very keen to read it. Sarah has had my running commentary and is looking forward to reading it herself later.

all best wishes
Geoff

Ava.artistry, NZ
Posted on Instagram, Oct 27, 2022

It is an honour to have your book in my journey through life. You have a warm and caring soul which looks out for anything or anyone. The art you create is a true inspiration to young artists like myself all over the world... everyone go and buy this amazing lady's book!

Ava H, 15 year-old student at New Plymouth Girls High School
via email: Thursday, 3 November 2022
Kia Ora Mrs. Grieve

I hope you are doing well. I am not sure if you are aware however, Charlotte Giblin has recently released her book titled 'seeing clearly' and is a very good book for the students of NPGHS to read as it is also a self-help book. I just wanted to see if the school is open to the idea of having Charlotte come into the school and do another artist talk about her work and her book. I also think it would be extremely beneficial for the school to purchase a copy of the book to have in our school library. Please let me know if this is possible to do as this book is a one-of-a-kind book which can help many students at NPGHS. Please get back to me ASAP. Thanks, Ava

Helen McL, NZ
Via Messenger, Nov 2, 2022

Well I wish you could have heard my brain just go Pooooooooof! As I read into the early hours of this morning..... Awwwwww my gaaaawd.... It was around the part as I flipped into the self help section – your book may possibly bump off that other guy's place on my top shelf as recommended must reads. It's bloody brilliant.

Bernadette Ballantyne Art, NZ
Posted on her Facebook page, Nov 3, 2022

I haven't had the time (let alone the head space) to read anything since before my daughter was born... finally now that I'm drawing full time, I have my evenings back and I am struggling to put this book down! I'm lucky enough to know this beautiful artist and her new book is all about having the courage to take the leap into full time artistry... how apt! Want to read along with me?

Sue D, NZ

Via Messenger, Nov 9, 2022

I just spent the weekend reading a very interesting book! I really enjoyed it and have been thinking about it and returning to it. I guess it was because it was so readable and relatable... regarding the art, it is very interesting to me that you have gone from a place which you were comfortable and extremely good at into the abstract world which has challenged you and you have stuck with it despite your many setbacks. You may end up going full circle and in a way, I hope you do. Your realism is amazing.

Thank you for writing your book. You have so many talents. You are totally inspirational.

Sharon W, NZ

Via Messenger, Nov 11, 2022

Your book is amazing. I am so glad you are putting yourself first. When you agree to things everyone expects it and before long you burn out. Lots of aha moments for me (it puts it in perspective when I realise how I help everyone but forget me). I'm hoping Keegan makes the time to read it, as she is struggling badly with mental health and physical health as well.

...Thank you for sharing your story and being so honest. You also need to know you have made an impact on a lot of people.

Vicky L, NZ

On Facebook, Nov 14, 2022

I've just finished reading Charlotte's book in 2 days!!!! It's a really honest human tale of her journey as an artist and as an amazing human being. The self-help portion prompted so many 'aha' moments for me and provoked much thought without being 'heavy going' to read. A really enjoyable read (with lovely pictures of Charlotte's art too!) I definitely recommend it!

Brenda C, NZ

Via Messenger, Nov 17, 2022

I read your book last night. What a wonderful read, love the friendly chatty style. It really feels like listening to your authentic voice. And while our lives could not be more different your exhibition experiences resonated. Hard!... Thanks for sharing your insights and knowledge. Congratulations on producing a book to be proud of.

Sheryl T, NZ

Posted on Facebook, Nov 19, 2022

A great, powerful and honest read. Thanks Charlotte Giblin Art for your openness of your journey and getting me started in my art journey. Such a privilege to be taught and encouraged by you. Many blessings as you continue the journey and bring blessings to others. Congratulations.

Elizabeth F, NZ
Via Messenger, Nov 19, 2022

So good you're getting your story out there because so many will benefit from it... you're a brilliant teacher, artist and human being and after reading your story I believe your life has come full circle and you can enjoy the fruits of your labour. I can't wait to see what the future holds for you.

Ann F, NZ
Via Whatsapp, Nov 25, 2022

I have just finished your amazing book. Your life in words and paintings. Unique I am sure. I will be going back over some parts of the book to refresh some understanding and to consider the art with more time. I do look forward to seeing what happens next with the wonderful skills that you have gained over the years. When will the sequel be published?

Leanne A, Sakura Healing, NZ
Posted on her Facebook page, November 27, 2022

Thank you Charlotte Giblin Art for your warmth, honesty, humour and laugh out loud moments. A great way to invest a wet Sunday afternoon.

Kristina W, NZ
Via Messenger, Dec 21, 2022

I finished reading your book that same weekend. My tummy was tight until the very end. Lots of things resonate. It's been awesome reading about these things, situation, feelings and see them in writing compared to only processing inside, feeling it out so to speak as I tend to do. Awesome work Charlotte. Brave. Honest. Absolutely loved it. Heaps of value anybody who reads it can draw from.

Sue McE, NZ
Via email: January 18, 2023

Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed reading about your journey thus far. You have really had ups and downs and it was very interesting to read how you navigated life through it all.

There was some familiar content that I recognised in myself and made me think of how I react in certain situations.

You should be very proud of your achievement.

Cheers, Sue

Maxine T, NZ

Via email: March 19, 2023

Dear Charlotte, It took a while for me to finish reading your book because there was a lot I identified with and needed time to digest.

As an art tutor, it's not just art I share with my students, but the experience of being an artist. Many of us artists are sensitive about what we produce and the reactions we receive from others and it helps to know about the similar journeys artists experience. Your book provided that reassurance that supports me through the tough patches. I realise that's my role too, to support artists through the challenges to create their best art.

Thanks heaps, Charlotte.

Cheers, Maxine

Sue W, NZ

Via Messenger, May 11, 2023

The insight and honesty you have in your book is truly inspiring. My niece loved her copy! So did her Mum.

Louise, UK

Via Messenger, July 29, 2023

I LOVE your book. I'm just past your "Too Bright" tree stump collection. That DID make me upset/angry for you about that comment from the gallery. I've decided I'd like to write to you about my thoughts on your book. There's lots I want to say and I've been writing down notes as I've gone along. I read the self help part as it came and just love the MAP.

Your book is definitely helping me. I'm dreaming about stuff that I've read. I'm dreaming about people who meant a lot to me in the past. Something is happening and it feels good.