



SMART EXPRESSIONS

ART SPACE ON THE CONCOURSE | CHATSWOOD LIBRARY ENTRANCE AND FOYER

SMART EXPRESSIONS

AN EXHIBITION OF 2021 HSC ARTWORKS

24 FEBRUARY – 20 MARCH 2022

Willoughby City Council presents an exhibition of student artworks selected from the 2021 NSW HSC practical examination in Visual Arts.

The exhibition demonstrates the interests and passions of a new generation of young artists. Celebrating the artistic talents and achievements of young people, the exhibition features a selection of artworks from students who attended six local high schools.

The artwork selected for the exhibition explores a range of subject matters such as the environment, mental health, gender, LGBTQIA+, immigration, relationships and the impacts of COVID-19.

EXHIBITION AT ART SPACE ON THE CONCOURSE

Ryan Agnew
Grace Bu
Ayako Chau
Brooklyn Collins
Ella Davidson
Maya Giannou
Elsbeth Haddow
Mitchell Hayes
Scout Higgins
Abby Johnstone
Annalise Joyce
Chanel Kuo

Sophie Lennon
Wenzi Lieu
Stephanie Loker
Bridget Lopez
Clemency McRae
David Mooney
Sarah Noble
Jacinta Robinson
Aimee Savva
Daniel Schuster
Hannah Wilcox

EXHIBITION AT CHATSWOOD LIBRARY ENTRANCE AND FOYER

Olivia Brown
Steve Chen
Thomas Cooper
Tina Li
Tiia Marsh
Aeryn Mortensen
Lara Taylor



RYAN AGNEW

Leaving the Nest

Pastel and acrylic on paper and digital animation

Glennaeon Rudolf Steiner School

My work explores the idea of freedom, growing up, and the transition between two phases of life. Freedom is shown through the birds, and their desire to leave and fly away, as well as the cars, stationary, their driver always looking back. Through the integration and separation of two distinctly different mediums—the pastel and the digital—I ask whether this is a transitional phase between two phases of life, or its own distinct chapter.

Art Space on The Concourse



OLIVIA BROWN

Life's Library

Mixed media with found objects

Bradfield Senior College

My body of work was inspired by artists who use bricolage (found objects) to create their works. My intention was to renew the pages of books with fading relevance, such as encyclopedias and history books, by creating enduring artworks. This way everyone can appreciate the beauty of literature –the fantastical worlds and accumulated years of knowledge–without reading a book. Opening the book opens a door that allows everyone to appreciate the artisan side of literature. My idea was inspired by the artist Julia Strand. I fell in love with her process of carving out old books, removing the words and leaving only the illustrations.

Chatswood Library Foyer



GRACE BU

Avaritia

Photomedia

Willoughby Girls High School

Reacting to the prevalence of consumerism in the post-modern west, my body of work appropriates the Vanitas genre, exploring the futility of material pleasures that provide us with a brief sense of satisfaction. As a form of societal and self-criticism, the personification of pride, envy and greed into characters elucidates some of the core emotional drivers of human behaviour, exposing our reliance on inanimate collections to define our identity and happiness. By infusing symbolic objects intended to emphasise vanity with the form of photomedia, I aim to remind viewers that we are manipulated in a deliberate and coordinated way, falling into a never-ending cycle of consumption.

Art Space on The Concourse



AYAKO CHAU

Remember My Name

Watercolour and acrylic on paper

Willoughby Girls High School

In my body of work, *Remember My Name*, I facilitated a deconstruction of the way my introverted personality affects my friendships, shown through the symbolic experiences of two characters (male and female). The artwork charts the progression of two people initially isolated from the world, slowly leading to the point where they meet and experience human connection. However, the artwork reverses and ends with them being alone, illustrating that friendship is fleeting. It is inevitable that the struggles of life leave us to drift apart, weakening that connection until we only remember each other's name.

Art Space on The Concourse



STEVE CHEN

Precious Agony

Glaze on paper clay

Chatswood High School

My sculptures represent the increasing rate of student suicides in China, associated with the intense pressure from both state and families to achieve the highest exam ranking. No one seems to take this shocking statistic seriously. Instead, they blame issues such as video game playing, bad teachers and weak mental health. In reality, most pressure comes from the knowledge that failure to excel will bring shame and exclusion from university. Celadon is a traditional Chinese colour that means 'precious'. My busts depict the anguish and suffering through distorted facial expressions. The twisted and disconnected hands represent the damage students do to themselves as a last resort.

Chatswood Library Foyer

BROOKLYN COLLINS

Dissection

Dyed fabric with handmade wooden frames and light fixtures

Willoughby Girls High School

The series of works titled *Dissection* plays on fabric manipulation and light. Each artwork has been carefully sewed with plastic sheets to mimic veins and arteries within each body part.

Art Space on The Concourse





THOMAS COOPER

Copper Coated and Live Wires

Linocut on paper

St Pius X College

Inspired by the works of Australian lino artists Mabel Pye and Ethel Spowers, I aimed to depict the unique forms and stark linear line of telegraph poles against the organic structures of the local canopy line. Akin to the works of the aforementioned artists I focused on utilising layers of colour to demonstrate light values and form, rather than intricate details that would merge together at a distance. The telegraph poles are an ideal subject to portray in reduction printmaking, as they are identifiable in monochromatic depictions due to their contrasting silhouette of vertical poles and conglomerate of horizontal straight lines. Symbolic of suburbia, I chose to capture the unique arrangements of each telegraph pole from different perspectives and feature the colours of the flourishing surrounds in my prints.

Chatswood Library Foyer

ELLA DAVIDSON

Maus Haus

Mixed media assemblage

Bradfield Senior College

Maus Haus depicts a house with rigid gendered rooms illustrating a traditional nuclear family's home in a satirical and surreal light in order to highlight the absurdities within society's perception of these two themes. The personal and cultural ties I have to this work add layers of meaning for me that can be interpreted differently by each viewer, highlighting the individual experiences one has with their own family environment and expectations.

Art Space on The Concourse





MAYA GIANNOU

A Passage Home. The Epistolary of a Migrant

Computer generated imagery

Chatswood High School

My body of work explores the concept of cultural bereavement as seen through the three stages of migration, particularly as it relates to the recent migratory influx from Latin America. The three stages include pre-migration (the decision to move), migration (the physical relocation of the individual), and postmigration (the absorption of the migrant within the new social and cultural framework). I convey these three dimensions through the practice of epistolary, a story told through the medium of letters. The postage stamps and writings on the envelopes provide context to the extensive geographical and emotional displacement of the migrant, ultimately imposing an identity and intimate relationship upon the giver as well as the receiver. Drawings of photographs are included to highlight the constant images of the past intruding into daily life.

Art Space on The Concourse



ELSPETH HADDOW

Tide Lines

Hand-built terracotta with underglaze and oxide decoration

Willoughby Girls High School

My work explores the theme of landscape and the exploration of ceramic traditions. The work references the beach, a common subject in contemporary Australian landscape painting. I have challenged this by choosing to represent this subject through a series of ceramic forms that are simplified and repeated. Although each piece works individually, by arranging them together, these individual elements communicate with each other to create a 'landscape'. My forms are coil built and the surface of the work is decorated with a sgraffito technique and painted with underglaze. Oxide has been rubbed into the surface to accentuate the markings, which alluded to the coastal environment. I was influenced by the work of Gwen Hanson Piggott and Pippin Drysdale whose works explore multiple pieces arranged to create works that reference landscape.

Art Space on The Concourse



MITCHELL HAYES

Covid Cartouche

Photographic liquid light printing on paper and found objects

St Pius X College

My artwork grew from my love of photography, particularly working in the darkroom. I began taking portraits of my friends, both individually and in groups. I became interested in the idea of printing photographs on other surfaces and discovered a photographic emulsion that would allow me to do that. During lockdown last year I started to notice how many discarded face masks were left in the streets and, putting all these ideas together, I began printing images of my friends on masks. I then extended my ideas by combining this with ceramics and etching processes, pressing face masks into surfaces, and even dipping masks into clay slip. My artworks are like relics which in the future will be like a time capsule of life during COVID: separation, protection and fragility.

Art Space on The Concourse



SCOUT HIGGINS

Letters to a Landscape

Single channel video with sound

Glennaeon Rudolf Steiner School

Letters to a Landscape is a testament to the Australian landscape and how land and the environment has simultaneously changed us, and is changed by us. Filmed in Hill End, it is my personal response to the landscape of the central NSW tablelands, and endeavours to interpret the connection we have with land and its inspiration and influence on us; the complex and multilayered relationship founded between individuals, landscape and history. Having always been immensely inspired by the landscape in Hill End, I wanted to explore my impossible desire to fit into a landscape that I cannot understand (as a non-Indigenous person), however can appreciate.

Art Space on The Concourse

ABBY JOHNSTONE

Exodus

Pencil on paper

Bradfield Senior College

My body of work *Exodus*, meaning ‘the road out’, explores the trials and tribulations of the teenage generation and the departure of childhood. The universal symbol of the bird is freedom, which many teenagers naturally desire or cannot have, and the raven is symbolically associated with death. The raven in my drawing signifies adolescence and the death of innocence, as you come to face the realities of the good and bad in adult life. The raven’s poses and accompanying objects represent specific emotional states that I hope the audience can empathise with and relate to. In order of display, my drawings explore resilience, stress, vulnerability, relationships, conflict and anxiety. My subject matter and technique has been influenced by tarot cards, and old scientific illustrations and etchings.

Art Space on The Concourse





ANNALISE JOYCE

Celebrating Fat Bodies

Digital print on textile with found object; measuring tape

Bradfield Senior College

Body image is a person's perception of the aesthetics of their own body. It is how someone sees themselves compared to the beauty standards set by society. This dress seeks to explore bodies that often fall outside the white, thin and overall conventional beauty standard that art and media represents. The tape measure element represents the measurements that are used to control our bodies; many associate the measuring tape with people telling them they don't fit the convention. My intention is to make a garment that is wearable art and turning the tape material concept into a beautiful thing. I hope that the audience appreciates the beauty of the bodies represented and reflect on their own body image and representation in art.

Art Space on The Concourse

CHANEL KUO

Anthozoa

Watercolour on paper

Willoughby Girls High School

First appearing over 500 million years ago, these marine vertebrates are key in providing us with myriad opportunities for both artistic inspiration and scientific discovery. My body of work explores the exquisite diversity of these marine vertebrates, dissecting them down to their simple, yet complex anatomy. By using watercolour, the medium of my work symbolises the delicate yet fluid nature of coral reef organisms whilst alluding to their origin. Creating a simplified emphasis on their unique forms and colours, my work serves as a reminder to appreciate the fragility and beauty of nature, whilst highlighting the critical importance and our everlasting dependence towards it.

Art Space on The Concourse





SOPHIE LENNON

Between movement and stillness; the ephemeral and eternal

Oil on canvas and linen with porcelain and wooden drawers

Mercy Catholic College

The dichotomy of movement and stillness; the ephemeral and eternal characterises life. We attempt to hold on to moments, people and feelings while the world steadily spins, inevitably encroaching on our stillness and enforcing change. As humans we are sentimental, the trinkets around our house tell stories of who we are, where we have been and who we have met. Change will inevitably find its way into our lives, represented by the stark white organic porcelain, which although a hard and brittle material, moulds effortlessly to the boxes, representing the ever-changing world which will force us to evolve. However, just as the world enforces change, those changes too, will change, thus the porcelain also represents the temporal, while the memories and nostalgia captured in the still lifes are eternal.

Art Space on The Concourse



TINA LI

Seasonal Bloom: A Visual Calendar

Digital print on decal

Chatswood High School

Seasonal Bloom: A Visual Calendar is a group of 12 artworks which represent 12 characters and the specific flower blooming in each month of the year. I was inspired by flowers and I wanted to design characters, therefore I used flowers as the main topic to create my characters. I also drew inspiration from Chinese mythology and culture, hence the artwork has used many Chinese cultural elements. This includes the use of traditional Chinese words to be the symbol of 1 to 12. Also, I created many patterns and dress up with Chinese elements. This artwork is a series of digital drawings which took around eight months to create. It connects all these elements to represent a special visual calendar, then achieved character design.

Chatswood Library Entrance



WENZI LIEU

#unedited

Oil on canvas

Mercy Catholic College

Our lives are subject to an endless bombardment of images in a social media culture that has evolved into an obsession with deriving self-worth from self-image. *#unedited*, depicting myself, explores the progressive deterioration of young people who struggle to keep up with the wild beauty standards instilled by social media. The manipulation of my face through abstraction of features, such as the enlarged jaw or unconventional colour palette—bruise purples and raw pinks inspired by Ben Quilty—showcases the emotions and hardships young people experience to attain happiness, self-worth and validation. The visual progression of each portrait from a recognisable person to a distorted form, forces the viewer to understand the aggressive downturn of body image on a young person's mouldable mentality whilst creating a newfound sense of sympathy.

Art Space on The Concourse



STEPHANIE LOKER

Tidal

Digital photography

Mercy Catholic College

The beach is alive. Ever changing shapes, sounds, smells. The crunch of sand under your feet, singing cicadas and squeals of young children splashing in the shallows. When you break the surface, you are greeted by the chaos of waves and swirling water. Enveloped in a hurricane of bubbles. As you sink into the depths, you are confronted with complete silence. Isolated in the dark underwater world. You are overwhelmed by the peace, tranquillity and serenity of only your heartbeat as company. Suspended in time, you feel weightless and free. Escaping the disarray of reality. But you soon must breach the surface, once again surrounded with the buzz of the beach. However, this spiritual journey is not forgotten. A transitional rebirth; nature's salvation offered to beachgoers.

Art Space on The Concourse



BRIDGET LOPEZ

The Battle for Freedom

Acrylic on canvas

Chatswood High School

This artwork explores the battle for freedom amongst the confinement of human struggles and circumstances.

Through hardships, there is always a source to keep you going, whether it is found or being discovered. This artwork depicts the search for strength that provides a source of hope and freedom from the confinement of given circumstances.

This work is intended to represent the possibility of peace found from courage, reappraisal of religion, future possibilities, community, growth, and love.

Art Space on The Concourse



TIIA MARSH

Regeneration

Oil on board

Chatswood High School

My body of work pays homage to the generations of volunteers who have spent their time protecting the remnant bushlands around Sydney. I wanted to showcase the connection between identity, nature, family and community. And how this process is being passed down through generations.

Chatswood Library Foyer

CLEMENCY MCRAE

Enough is Enough

Photographic transfer, thread and mixed media on fabric

Bradfield Senior College

Gender discrimination remains a prominent issue, with teenage girls growing up heavily affected by these harmful ideas and actions. My work confronts society using a collection of different skirts to represent the way gender issues are perceived. My aim is to educate the audience on themes of sexual discrimination, while sharing the perspective of females and recognising the voices that are so often drowned out. The use of textiles alludes to the way society associates objectification and harassment with fashion and the way girls choose to dress. These stereotypes are combined with photographs and quotes from teenage girls I surveyed.

Art Space on The Concourse



DAVID MOONEY

'Unmasked'

Pencil and charcoal on paper

St Pius X College

The individual person expresses a dual personality; the one that everyone sees and the one you hide deep within. My work reflects the perception of both external and internal personalities. I have reflected this concept through my family, portraying them with physical expressions which define their characteristics on the outside, whilst the fragmented and crumpled nature goes on to reflect what each individual person hides. The fragments break down the divided and broken nature of each family member's personality, reflecting personal traits and who they truly are as people.

Art Space on The Concourse





AERYN MORTENSEN

*We're here, we're queer, our voices
are loud and clear*

Digital print on decal

Bradfield Senior College



This work is about the diversity of queer people. The people in the artwork are my friends, who are of different cultural backgrounds, genders, and sexualities. I created it by taking full body photos of 23 of my friends plus myself. I removed the backgrounds of the photos and laid them out in a long canvas on Adobe Photoshop, with a gradient of the rainbow flag as the background. I also used newspaper clippings about queer people and my generation—Gen Z—to provide context about how we're represented in the media.

Chatswood Library



SARAH NOBLE

An Insomniac Lullaby

Charcoal, ink, white gel pen, oil crayons and printmaking ink on paper

Chatswood High School

Nothing is real. We are in a dream. *Insomniac Lullaby* is an exploration of the effects of mental health on youth and struggles with vivid nightmares. The screaming face represents my ongoing struggle with psychological pain while having constant vivid nightmares that confuses me with my physical reality. Having constant vivid nightmares of my close friends dying or of being physically abused by the people I love, is something that I still struggle to get rid of in my head. Through my body of work, I was able to get rid of negative thoughts and instead express them on paper by using inks, charcoal, printmaking techniques and white gel pen. I wanted to showcase my personal experience of feeling confused, lost, and unaccepted.

Art Space on The Concourse



JACINTA ROBINSON

Danse de la vie

Oil on canvas

Bradfield Senior College

The *Danse de la vie*, the 'dance of life', celebrates life without fearing the certainty of death. My work is a reminder of living now, leaving the past behind without trying to control and plan every aspect of the future. This work is my take on the allegorical genre *Danse Macabre* from the Late Middle Ages. An artistic reminder of mortality used to inspire gratitude and fortitude in difficult circumstances. The skeletons symbolise death while the thriving and blooming jungle celebrates the miracle of life in its transience and fragility. The jungle embodies a place that is inherently alive and free, a potent symbol of the element of danger and chaos that coexists with beauty and pleasure, which lets us know we are truly alive.

Art Space on The Concourse



AIMEE SAVVA

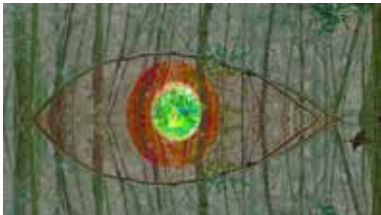
Ravaged Beauty

Oil on Canvas

Bradfield Senior College

My artwork aims to present breast cancer, an ugly, scary disease, in a beautiful way. It can bring people together and make connections stronger than they were before. I have used oil paint to create abstract visuals on a variety of canvases inspired by images of breast anatomy and scientifically produced models of cells. Some canvases are blank, symbolising the depth of the physical and emotional pain caused to those with the disease and their families. The work also alludes to underwater scenes or the inside workings of a body that show systems that work together to survive. I hope to make the audience think about what each mark and colour is intended for, and to create awareness for the pain and suffering the disease causes.

Art Space on The Concourse



DANIEL SCHUSTER

The Exhale

Single channel video with sound

Glennaeon Rudolf Steiner School

This work comments on the effect COVID-19 has had on the individual. Being an abstract interpretation of the impact of COVID, the use of psychedelic editing to contrast between nature and technology poses thought on how people can become grounded in such uncertain times. Titled *The Exhale*, it highlights how the only thing you can do is take deep breaths and gain perspective on your problems; the breaths help silence the chaos and create calm in times of uncertainty. The organic, smooth and calm editing style coupled with nature and the harsher and coarse editing style done on industrial shots creates the sense of safety within nature. The fulfilling safety and loneliness of nature has become a place for people to relax when they are trapped inside due to lockdowns.

Art Space on The Concourse

LARA TAYLOR

Evolution of Present

Collograph and linocut on eco dyed paper with found objects and photography

Glennaeon Rudolf Steiner School

Traveling back and forth to a small country town and staring out the window for hours on end encouraged an appreciation for the unconventional aesthetic to develop. On those long drives I would stare out the window and there would often be an old cow pen, or a desolate and derelict building randomly situated in the landscape. I found the concept that items could develop individualistic properties when left alone to be 'manipulated' by the environment. My conceptual practice explores the idea that objects, without human interference, can become unconventionally beautiful. My material practice involved using paper buried in the earth, eco printing with found leaves, found objects rearranged in sculptural forms, photos of derelict sites, and printing from images of objects on torn detritus paper.

Chatswood Library





HANNAH WILCOX

Samasara (Life, Death and Rebirth)

Photomedia

Willoughby Girls High School

My body of work explores the eternal cycle of transformation and rebirth within the human experience. My intent was to reflect this through a series of photographic portraits, inclusive of dark light, water and aspects of the natural world to create a link to the ideas of the Renaissance. The intricacy of the details within the images allowed me to focus my message on the soft, yet complex nature of our constant renewal. I was inspired by the works of Marta Bevacqua, Nirav Patel and Bill Henson.

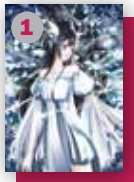
Art Space on The Concourse

SEE MAP FOR LOCATIONS OF ARTWORKS ON THE CONCOURSE

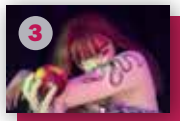
1. *Seasonal Bloom: A Visual Calendar* | Decal installation by Tina Li | CHATSWOOD LIBRARY ENTRANCE
2. *We're here, we're queer, our voices are loud and clear* | Decal installation by Aeryn Mortensen | CHATSWOOD LIBRARY
3. *Smart Expressions* | Exhibition | ART SPACE ON THE CONCOURSE
4. *Smart Expressions* | Exhibition | CHATSWOOD LIBRARY FOYER



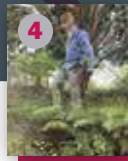
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1



3



4

ANDERSON ST

Anderson St Entrance
Stage Door Entrance

FERGUSON LANE

P Vehicle Entrance

PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE



The Concourse car park offers one hour free parking with direct lift access to the Art Space.

VICTORIA AVE

To Chatswood Mall

SPRING ST



IMAGE: Ayako Chau, *Remember My Name*, 2021, watercolour and acrylic on paper

SMART EXPRESSIONS

AN EXHIBITION OF 2021 HSC ARTWORKS
24 FEBRUARY – 20 MARCH 2022

A Willoughby City Council curated exhibition.

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**ART SPACE ON THE CONCOURSE + CHATSWOOD LIBRARY ENTRANCE
AND FOYER** 409 Victoria Ave, Chatswood

ART SPACE ON THE CONCOURSE Next to Box Office

Opening Hours: Wednesday to Friday 11am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday 11am-4pm

CHATSWOOD LIBRARY FOYER Lower Ground **Opening Hours:** Monday to Thursday
9am-8pm, Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 2pm-5pm

