

MEDIA RELEASE

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Eight teenage artists recognised in SA student art show

Eight art and design students representing metropolitan and country South Australia have received top honours in the SACE 2024 Art Show.

Environmental concerns, Dreamtime, societal beauty standards, mental health and family connection were the inspiration behind the award-winning works by students Shakaya Butler, Adelaide Coleman, Giselle Draper, Phoebe Hunt, Dannan Isherwood, Cici Liu, Melani Matulin and April Rigney.

The students, from the Coorong through Adelaide to the Clare Valley, will be officially recognised with awards at the SACE Art Show's closing event on Friday, April 12. The full list of awards and recipients is provided below.

Giselle Draper, recognised for her poster and sculpture works "Grasping" and "Reaching", said her aim was to spotlight the impact of anxiety and the courage needed to "reach out". "As someone who has struggled with this throughout school, it was important for me to share my experience and to show others that it's ok to receive help," she said.

Awarded for her digital artworks "Fire, Water, Earth, Air" (*Waru, Kapi, Munda, Walpa*), proud Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Kaurna woman Shakaya Butler said she used a digital canvas to illustrate modern representations of four traditional Aboriginal 'imma women', "creating a bridge between the past and the present".

Minister for Education, Training and Skills Blair Boyer, who will present awards at the closing event, said: "I was particularly impressed by the inspiration the artists have drawn upon to influence their work, including mental health, dreamtime and environmental causes. Art is a wonderful way for students to express how they view the world around them and I congratulate this year's winners on their wonderful achievement".

Minister for Human Services Nat Cook, who will present awards, said: "I am so pleased to support the 2024 SACE Art Show and the works of these incredible young artists. Art is a fantastic medium for story-telling and these young people have been able to showcase their culture, experiences of mental health and passion for the environment so beautifully through their artworks."

SACE Board Chief Executive Michaela Bensley said: "As we celebrate the success of these talented students, let us not only applaud the skill and beauty of their works but also recognise the profound significance they hold in bridging diverse perspectives and fostering deeper understanding within our community."

The SACE Art Show is one of the largest secondary school art and design exhibitions in the state, showcasing the works of 130 students selected from last year's class of more than 1350 Stage 2 SACE Visual Art and Design students.

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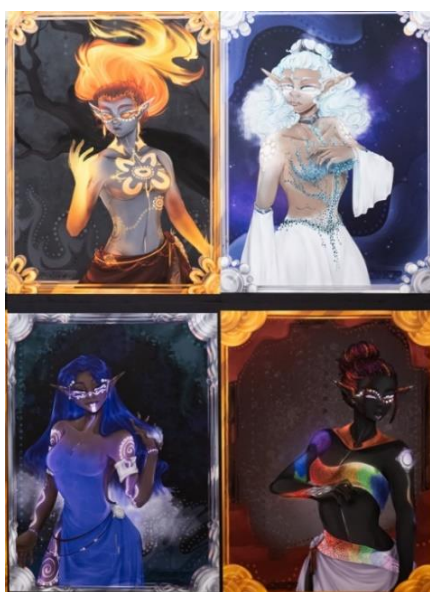


Hosted by the SACE Board and TAFE SA, the SACE Art Show is supported by the Minister for Human Services, the Australian Education Union, Eckersley's Art and Craft, Flinders University, Adelaide Central School of Art and the Independent Education Union.

The SACE Art Show is open to the public until April 12 and is located in the Light Square Gallery, at the Adelaide College of the Arts, 39 Light Square, Adelaide. Three Community Awards will be announced on April 12, including the Voters' Award.

For more information on the SACE Art Show, including bookings and the online gallery, visit the SACE website www.sace.sa.edu.au/events/art-show.

SACE ART SHOW 2024 Award Recipients



SHAKAYA BUTLER, Le Fevre High School - AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION UNION SACE ART SHOW AWARD.

"Fire, Water, Earth, Air": four-piece work using modern digital art fusing traditional, cultural symbolism.

"I have crafted four illustrations centred around four female Aboriginal characters, each representing a facet of the elemental forces that shape our world. They are: Waru, the fire spirit; Kapi, the water spirit; Munda, the earth spirit; and Walpa, the air spirit. As they dance through country they are known as 'imma women' - women who perform ceremonies of country and song. These characters are conduits for cultural understanding, each steeped in symbolism and informed by the stories of my people (Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Kaurna). Influenced by the trailblazing work of Aboriginal character artists in the digital realm, my creations stand as a testament to the evolving narrative of indigenous art. The digital platform, a contemporary canvas, allows me to infuse tradition with modernity, creating a bridge between the past and the present."



ADELAIDE COLEMAN, 18, Seymour College - INDEPENDENT EDUCATION UNION SACE ART SHOW AWARD.

"Threads of Tradition": acrylic painting featuring sculptural and embroidery accents.

"Depicting three generations (my grandmother, my mother and

myself) creating pysanky eggs, which are symbolic of spring and renewal, my work aims to explore connection to family and my Ukrainian heritage. It conveys the intricate threads binding my family together and the enduring legacy of tradition passed down through each generation. I was primarily inspired by my grandparents' journey as refugees and sought to convey themes of resilience despite adversity. I was also inspired by artists such as David Waslyshen who incorporated pysanky into his work using mosaic protrusions. His unique approach drove me to develop my own method of incorporating a three-dimensional aspect into my work."



GISELLE DRAPER, 18, St John's Grammar School - MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES - SACE ART SHOW POSTER AWARD.

“Grasping” and “Reaching”: digital photography displayed on prints and plaster moulds.

“I created photographs for ‘Grasping’ and moulded hands for ‘Reaching’ as separate artworks that are connected. These two pieces tell a story of learning how to cope with anxiety and finding courage to reach out. As someone who has struggled with this throughout school, it was important for me to share my experience, and to show others that it’s ok to receive help. I was additionally inspired by how hand body language translates emotion.”



PHOEBE HUNT, 18, Westminster School - FLINDERS UNIVERSITY VISUAL ARTS AWARD.

“Identity”: three works with cyanotype / blueprint on fabric and watercolour paper with mixed media overlay - hand and machine stitching, acrylic paint, charcoal, pastels and watercolour.

“The themes of my work were inspired by my own personal view on the experience of being a teenage girl in today’s society. My body of work reflects the adolescent struggle with conformity and the challenges teenage girls have with societal beauty standards. I chose cyanotype as my media of choice as I had briefly learned about it in photography class but was motivated to use it in a new format.”



DANNAN ISHERWOOD, 18, Horizon Christian School - MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES – REGIONAL ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD.

“Killing Our Roots”: Pyrography and coloured pencil piece, based upon a milled slab of pine discarded from a local sawmill.

“I was driving home from school and saw gumtrees marked with orange paint. I did some research and discovered overtaking lanes were being added to parts of the Horrocks Highway. This was infuriating for me and led me to post against the removal of the trees on the community Facebook page of Clare Valley. Seeing something that is wrong and not being able to change it is unbearable, and it was clear that this development was happening regardless of my opposition. So, I decided to channel my anger into creating art just as we were starting our SACE Art folios. I was propelled to capture the pain and disruption from the loss of these gum trees on our community and ecosystem.”

CICI LIU, 19, Loreto College - ECKERSLEY'S ART AND CRAFT ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD:



“Production Line”: multimedia on canvas.

“I took inspiration from the book cover of the novel ‘Normal People’ by Sally Rooney. The couple curled up together in a tin made me think that human beings are like sardines. We all want to fit in the crowd, afraid to be alienated by the society.”

MELANI MATULIN, 17, Mary MacKillop College - ADELAIDE CENTRAL SCHOOL OF ART AWARD.



“The Erosion Within”: six-piece body of work using mixed media on paper/card, oil paint on acrylic mirror, pen on paper, and white charcoal, oil paint on paper/card.

“My work is inspired by my own personal struggles with dysmorphia and societal beauty standards for women, showcasing the ever-changing nature of the illness and how it distorts self-perception. Not only does it reflect my own personal struggles and emotions by having myself as the subject matter, but also encourages viewers to confront their own image and engage with their own challenges.”



APRIL RIGNEY, 18, Eastern Fleurieu School 7-12 - MINISTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES – REGIONAL ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD.

‘Kondoli Dreaming’: Acrylic on canvas.

“The Kondoli dreaming is a sacred Ngarrindjeri dreaming story based in Port Elliot and Victor Harbour of how fire was given to our people and how we must protect it. I was inspired to paint the ‘Kondoli Dreaming’ after an excursion with renowned Ngarrindjeri artist Cedric Varcoe, where we visited Basham’s Beach (Middleton). Varco shared the Kondoli dreaming story with us and how the waters and land were created by Kondoli and how he turned into a whale. As a Ngarrindjeri Mimini (woman), I love learning about my culture and the dreaming stories and chose to connect with my culture through art, using Ngarrindjeri art-style to paint the Kondoli dreaming story.”