

## 2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

# Artist Statement

### Name

Bethany  
Tranfield

### Title

The Way

### Expressive Form

Textiles and Fibre

My artwork *The Way* tells a story of life as a journey from both Eastern and Western perspectives.

The woodblock depicts the Eastern Tao Te Ching, or 'The Way'– the symbol of Eastern philosophy that emphasises the interplay between chaos and order, which paradoxically results in harmony.

The soft sculptures represent the differing perspectives of east and west on the journey, cast upon the mythological representation of the dragon, as both cultures converge upon the same idea. For example, power in Eastern tradition is seen as benevolent and divine-eastern myth and legend. The dragon is the symbol of the emperor and the power he needs to rule, and, as such, famous eastern dragons are aids to the heroes of their stories (Haku from *Spirited Away* or Mushu from *Mulan*). However in western culture, power is often characterised as inherently greedy, symbolised through the dragon that uses his power to burn villages, and hoard treasure and beautiful women (Smaug, Maleficent, Donkey's Dragon;) It is the main antagonist that must be killed as the final test of the hero.