

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Calum
Anderson

Title

Evolving Echoes

Expressive Form

Drawing

Graffiti within Australia has a very misunderstood and diverse history, with countless styles and practices coming together to form a rich culture of emotional projection and expression for those without a voice.

This diverse nature can be seen through each style having its own individual uniqueness, shown through the choice of colour and the individual idiosyncrasies seen within each detail.

These changes in style have become increasingly distinct across cities such as Sydney and Melbourne. Such diversity in style could be due to the differing societal influences experienced by these opposing demographics.

Ultimately, I intend to share this misinterpreted world under a new light, hoping to reveal the diverse and expressive nature of graffiti for individuals in our society.

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Araminta
Gardner

Title

Layers of Mortality

Expressive Form

Drawing

My understanding of human existence and the process of deterioration is reinforced by the interpersonal relationships interwoven within my Body of Work (BOW). I consciously chose to emphasize the mental and emotional dimensions of deterioration and human connections.

Using my father's hands, my grandmother's eyes, and an abstract interpretation of a retirement chair, I have attempted to depict three distinct phases of life in my three pieces of art. During the creation of my BOW, my father received an aggressive cancer diagnosis. As a result, my decision to paint his hands took on a whole new meaning for me. Initially, I wanted to capture how I know my father: strong, busy, and full of energy, guiding and providing me with security. His hands were the first thing I reached for as I walked through childhood.

In contrast, I now depict them in my BOW as tightly bound together. The clasp of his fingers reflects a time of introspection and a desire to protect himself from an uncertain future. The closed hands symbolize his need to focus on himself and the perseverance required to face what lies ahead.

It is time for me to try walking on my own, but I will always walk beside him.

Through authentic and delicate brushstrokes, my grandmother's eye conveys a poignant reminder of the beauty and wisdom that come with the passage of time, even as the physical form begins to fade. The artwork captures the inevitability of aging, portraying it as a gradual process that unfolds with each passing day.

Lastly, the notion that "we all end up in a chair" offers a sense of comfort as it is a shared experience. The layered texture emphasizes the impact of aging on us and the collective experience of dependency we all have on chairs in the final chapters of our lives. The torn-up retirement chair, with its frayed fabric and thread, examines the aspects of human decay and a sense of belonging. This intimate approach seeks to connect with the audience by highlighting how age and dependence are universal.

2024 HSC Visual Arts

MAJOR WORK

Name

Tia
Halliday

Title

Material Girls

Expressive Form

Textiles and Fibre

As human beings, we create it continually. It seems as though it is never-ending. The average human produces 2.3 kg of it daily. What is 'IT'? It is waste.

In my artwork, I explore the capability of waste in a way to reclaim and repurpose it to transform it from being an environmental burden to being a catalyst for good. Driven by a dedication to sustainability, my artwork involved crafting garments completely from waste materials, predominantly plastic pieces being reclaimed from imminent disposal.

My artwork showcases the aesthetic capabilities of waste which challenges the often-deemed worthless material, demonstrating that it can be a source of creative value, impact and beauty.

2024 HSC Visual Arts

MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Jemima
Kelly

Title

Intertwined Unity

Expressive Form

Drawing

My body of work explores the nuanced nature of family and the enduring connections which define its unity.

Through the series of individual portraits and the central piece depicting the intergenerational bond of holding hands, my works captures the essence of how the various voices, experiences and relationships within family harmonize to contribute to a larger cohesive whole.

It further explores the timeless bond between family members through the juxtaposition of individual portraits and a central, unifying artwork which symbolises the transfer of wisdom, love, and support between generations, whilst the imagery captures a tender moment, emphasizing the connection and continuity of familial relationships over time.

Thus, my body of work exemplifies how family unity is built of intertwined interactions, where each member's unique contribution enriches the collective experience.

Ultimately, I aimed to invite viewers to reflect on their own familial connections and appreciate the harmonious interplay between past, present, and future.

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Imogen
Lane

Title

Life's Connection

Expressive Form

Sculpture

My work aims to explore the concept of human connection using mediums of wire, twine and hessian.

In my series, I created three figures that embody different aspects of our relationship.

Two of the figures are engaged in conversation, their forms frozen in an exchange that symbolises the depth and complexity of social bonds.

The third figure is depicted in a sincere act of prayer, representing the deeply personal and introspection in spiritual connection.

These figures are enveloped by a network of roots, which surround and anchor them to the earth sometimes entangling them.

This organic growth represents our inextricable link to the physical world and life. The roots not only bind the sculptures to their environment but also suggest growth, mirroring the way human connections evolve and deepen over time.

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Jessica
Maher

Title

Social Seclusion:
A Moment in History

Expressive Form

Drawing

Through my work, I wanted to demonstrate how external crises erode people's sense of place and belonging. By subtly referencing Käthe Kollwitz's *The Prisoners* and Honoré Daumier's *The Third-Class Carriage*, I aimed to underline the persistence of human suffering – how it shifts in form but never fully disappears, constantly resurfacing in different ways throughout history.

The figures are hunched and contorted; their forms worn by the emotional and psychological strain wrought by war, poverty and a worldwide pandemic. The crowded nature of the composition highlights the collective suffering, while the ghostly, faded forms indicate a loss of identity and a sense of isolation. The works end in rips and holes, symbolising a world in a state of decay and disarray, capturing the internal struggle of navigating global dilemmas. Though the crisis may change, the toll it takes on humanity remains constant, leaving behind a sense of disconnection and loss in our collective consciousness.

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Toby
McConnell

Title

CrossRoads

Expressive Form

Graphic Design/
Photomedia

CrossRoads is a lenticular artwork that represents two paths which I believe society should consider.

The grey electric vehicle (EV) path that is currently popular in the media has grabbed the attention of the public via the likes of Elon Musk. However, it seems the lifecycle of EVs is not as sustainable as we are led to believe.

The green path is an alternative solution for car enthusiasts like me of the lesser known 'synthetic fuels'. These can replace fossil fuels, but retain the emotion, sounds and life of existing combustion cars.

Through *CrossRoads* I want to prompt the consideration of the application of synthetic fuels and for the audience in their own time to research and understand its potential.

Additionally, through colour, I attempt to convey my preference for synthetic fuels being the more 'sustainable' path, as it prevents the wastage of billions of new and old internal combustion cars which would need replacing if society went down the path of fully electric vehicles.

Through my personal connection with cars, I also wanted to convey the beauty that I see in internal combustion vehicles, highlighting through the photography of my own car what needs to be retained and not lost. I chose to print the photos in black and white to allow the audience to focus on the form, lines, textures, and detail of the car, and to hopefully, see the beauty through my eyes.

2024 HSC Visual Arts

MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Sebastian
Morrow

Title

Whale Watching

Expressive Form

Ceramics

My clay whales capture the delicate balance of fragility and beauty found in nature's most majestic creatures. Each handcrafted sculpture reflects their grace while serving as a poignant reminder of the growing threats to their existence. From climate change and the destruction of their environments to vessel strikes and illegal whaling, these giants face mounting dangers that jeopardize their survival almost every day. Through my creations, I aim to highlight both their beauty and the urgent need to protect them, urging a collective effort to preserve our seas and the lives in it.

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Alana
Pittard

Title

It's all in the Details

Expressive Form

Collection of Works

If you truly love nature, you will find beauty everywhere. Vincent van Gogh. My intent of It's all in the details is to construct an immersive experience for the changing natural world as I explore various themes of preservation, beauty, and the fragility of nature, capturing the ephemeral details that often go unnoticed. This collection of photographs and ceramics serve as a bridge between the past and the present, preserving fleeting moments in a permanent form. My macro images of flora and fauna, framed in acrylic, aim to evoke the emotional power of nature's intricacies, through highlighting the delicate balance and inherent beauty found in seasonal changes. I desired to mirror the diversity of Earth's palette as it radiates a vibrant array of colours and dark tones. The ceramic works reflect the dynamic interplay of nature's cycles through delicate organic patterns with varying colour temperatures. The soft coloured glazes accentuate minute details, emphasising the textural and patterned surfaces found as seasons and environments change in the natural world. Decay, iridescence and colour function as visual reminders allowing the audience to witness the interactions of the elements occurring within the environment overtime.

2024 HSC Visual Arts

MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Jessica
Sigurdson

Title

Art of Persisting

Expressive Form

Photomedia

Art of Persisting was inspired by my recognition of nature's resilience and persistence in a world of relentless human urbanisation. Through my lens, I aim to show nature's ability to fight back and its enduring beauty despite mankind's efforts to take over natural environments. My body of work intends to evoke a sense of reflection from viewers on the way we treat nature, imploring respect and care for the natural world. Photographs of birds in the city, mould growing on walls, and plants growing through concrete explores nature's persistence in everyday life. They draw attention to what may be missed by most, as it happens all around us.

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.

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Harry
West

Title

Freedom of Play

Expressive Form

Collection of Works

Freedom of play is an important component to allow individuals to explore their imagination without having boundaries.

In my ceramics and painting, I have encouraged myself to create new ways of expressing my art and letting my imagination take over. Freedom when creating art is a way to explore; I have done this by trying new ways to create ceramics. This challenges societal norms and helps to overcome judgment.

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

James
Woodbridge

Title

Identity in Motion

Expressive Form

Painting

In a split second, from our first visual impression of another individual, our minds have already interpreted the way they live.

'A scruffy dirty man must be living on the street, a stay-at-home mum must drive a fancy car, an old man must still be living in an old house and a university student must drive a second-hand car.' These little interpretations of others' lives have been imprinted on our brains from a young age, which inspired my use of playground equipment as my canvas.

My artwork aims to provoke thought on how we have prejudice about living standards based on outward appearance. While turning the cubes to match the faces, it may seem clear which ones are meant to align but in theory, without the added elements, any of them could be right. So, does outward appearance really reveal how someone lives?

2024 HSC Visual Arts MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Charlotte
Watt

Title

Metamorphosis

Expressive Form

Printmaking

Metamorphosis is a series of printed pieces and segments representing the evolution and change of a living entity in the animal kingdom. A world enshrouded in unseen beauty, full of potential, is encapsulated within the physical appearance of a butterfly, which initially does not reflect its true, unique colours and details. Unlike most organisms new to this world, a caterpillar conceals its true nature. The butterfly's metamorphic process embodies the progression of beauty developing throughout its lifecycle.

The misalignment of the paper segments as the piece forms across the panels articulates the fractured appearance of evolutionary stages, where the depiction of physical beauty is obscured and distorted by time. I have captured the fragility of creation to emphasise the natural evolution of a butterfly within the surrounding images and to convey the overwhelming presence of beauty in the natural world. The differences in paper and colouring demonstrate the divergent paths of life.

Metamorphosis represents how beauty is not a linear concept, as minute details are often overlooked in a subjective world that evolves throughout our lives, much like the lifecycle of a butterfly.

2024 HSC Visual Arts

MAJOR WORK

Artist Statement

Name

Jake
Kruger

Title

Gods of the Modern Age

Expressive Form

Ceramics

Everyone worships something, from the ancient Aztecs praying for rain or the modern man praying that his stocks do well. I created my body of work to explore the shifting values across time and how these are reflected in what we value and worship today.

To do this, I have recreated, in ceramics, ancient religious idols from many different cultures, and transplanted modern objects into them. These created modern 'gods' reflect what our society values and how those values have shifted over the centuries