

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY



In this outstanding exhibition project, brave works convey the talent and unexpected wisdom of youth in *First Class 18*. This eagerly awaited annual exhibition project at Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery includes specialist HSC clinics for students, professional development days for teachers and culminates in a curated exhibition by outstanding young artists in our region.

Guest curators Helen Willis and Courtney Novak embarked on the challenging task of selecting 41 works from more than 128 high school nominations of top performing 2018 HSC Visual Arts students from the Hunter and Central Coast.

To draw the works together in a coherent exhibition, works in this year's exhibition were curated around the common theme, **'What makes us who we are?'** Through this driving concept, young artists reveal personal observations about mental health, pollution and the influences of science. Some explore intimate memories, others family relationships or cultural connections. As a whole, the works demonstrate how our environment, our culture and our emotions are continually shaping us.

The exhibition includes vast diversity of media including drawing, painting, sculpture, photomedia, fibre, video and installation. Gallery Director, Debbie Abraham, says of the artwork in *First Class*, 'without fail, gallery visitors are repeatedly impressed with the quality and sophistication of the work – we are really proud of the ongoing excellence of this project and the curator's outstanding effort'.

'Blew my mind. Hard to believe these works were produced by such young artists.'

'Inspiring young deep thinkers'

'In Awe' 'Great exhibition, well presented'

Visitor's Book 2018

Exhibition Dates: 9 February – 31 March 2019

Opening Celebration Event: Sunday 10 February from 2pm

Join us for the opening at 2pm. Host Gallery Director Debbie Abraham will be joined by *First Class 18* curators, Helen Willis and Courtney Novak and exhibiting artists. From 3pm enjoy refreshments and live music

For images and further information please contact Laura Wilson on (02) 49210382 or lwilson@lakemac.nsw.gov.au

FIRST CLASS 18 SELECTED ARTISTS

Indigo Alt	Avondale High School
Bernadette Coleman	Belmont High School
Katelyn Murdoch	Belmont High School
Jade Roden	Belmont High School
Jethro Sumiran	Glendale Technology High School
Lily Kinnavong	Hunter Christian School
Jessica Andrews	Hunter River High School
Paige Kingston-Hogg	Kotara High School
Shae Stavrevski	Kotara High School
Daniel Albery-Grima	Lake Munmorah High School
Adison Bennett	Lake Munmorah High School
Arabella Kavanagh	Lake Munmorah High School
Joseph Anderson	Lambton High School
Willem Bergquist	Lambton High School
Peter Budden	Lambton High School
Jessica Dempsey	Lambton High School
Jacob Honnery	Lambton High School
Bailey Jackson	Lambton High School
Yana Kaneva	Lambton High School
Emil Ngo	Lambton High School
Jemma Wilson	Lambton High School
Alexandria Geerarts	Newcastle Grammar School
Kate Hackett	Newcastle Grammar School
Emerson Lees	Newcastle Grammar School
Ella McConnochie	Newcastle Grammar School
Connor Fletcher	Newcastle High School
Jorell Hammond	Rutherford Technology High School
Abbey Nugent	St Paul's Catholic College
Rebecca Burgess	Toronto High School
Brianna Hobbs	Toronto High School
Hayley Street	Toronto High School
Sarah Barnsley	Wadalba Community School
Lowanna Russell	Wadalba Community School
Jasmin Burnett	Warners Bay High School
Emma Butcher	Warners Bay High School
Eliza Gisbey	Warners Bay High School
Miranda Jackson	Warners Bay High School
Lauren King	Warners Bay High School
Tara McBride	Warners Bay High School
Dayna Perez	Warners Bay High School
Acacia Charter-Smith	West Wallsend High School
Paige Trowbridge	Whitebridge High School

Images L-R: **Lowanna Russell**, Wadalba Community School *Evanescence Integrity* (detail) digital photographs, dimensions variable; **Ella McConnochie**, Newcastle Grammar School *Foundations* (detail), paper, pencil, wooden cubes, plywood, suitcase, dimensions variable; **Emma Butcher**, Warners Bay High School *McDonaldization* (detail) timber, paint, paper, digital prints dimensions variable; **Emil Ngo**, Lambton High School *Where do my bones belong?* (detail) time-based film (1.57mins) giclee print of video still, varnish, frame, dimensions variable; **Peter Budden**, Lambton High School, *Such Is Life* (detail) collage, spray paint, acrylic paint, pen, recycled artworks, board, found objects, 200 x 200cm.