



MEDIA RELEASE

Hazelhurst ARTS CENTRE

24 January 2018

Patron: Edmund Capon, AM, OBE



Chevelle Donoso, *Humanity – What can't be seen is coloured (detail)*; Angeline Khoury, *Hairy Antoinette* and Lola Mae Nesbitt, *On the Cusp*

STUDENTS EXPLORE UNFAIR WAGES, BODY IMAGE, ANIMAL WELFARE, THE ENVIRONMENT, POVERTY, CONSUMERISM AND ANXIETY IN 2018 ARTEXPRESS

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre will open the 2018 ARTEXPRESS where visitors will see 44 outstanding Higher School Certificate artworks which highlight the many concerns of young people today such as body image, unfair wages, animal welfare, the environment, poverty, consumerism and anxiety.

Hazelhurst will join with other venues across Sydney in hosting the hugely popular ARTEXPRESS, which is seen by thousands of people each year.

Sutherland Shire Mayor Carmelo Pesce said *each year ARTEXPRESS examines issues that young people feel are extremely important to them and the modern world. The environment is again one of the major themes in this year's exhibition and it just goes to show how passionate our young people are about our planet.*



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This year sees a work about the Great Barrier Reef and the destruction of the coral through bleaching, a work which explores how human ego and consumerism are overpowering the beauty of our natural world and a confronting work which uses plastic bags and soy sauce sushi bottles to comment on the environmental impact humans are having on our oceans.

Chevelle Donoso from Picnic Point High School in her work *Humanity – What can't be seen is coloured* examines how life and industry move so fast in our contemporary world that the most vulnerable and silent creatures are forgotten and abused. Her intention is to explore and illuminate the plight of animals. While humanity expands, and our population grows, animal habitats fall short due to pollution, erosion economics and industry.

Angeline Khoury from Santa Sabina looks at society's obsession with self-image, specifically the preoccupation with social media and the tools used to mask one's identity in her work *Hairy Antoinette* and Lola Mae Nesbitt from Burwood Girls High School, who has been influenced by the work of Bill Henson, looks at the space that marks the transition from childhood to womanhood in her work *On the Cusp*.

Belinda Hanrahan, Director of Hazelhurst Regional Gallery said *the exhibition has been carefully curated by the Gallery's Kate Milner and Ingrid Dernee and this year it is as strong in ideas as ever and reveals extraordinary technical skills by young artists throughout NSW.*

Details:

ARTEXPRESS

17 February – 15 April, 2018

Hazelhurst Arts Centre

782 Kingsway, Gymea.

Open daily 10am – 5pm

For further information please contact Susanne Briggs 0412 268 320 or sbriggs@ssc.nsw.gov.au

Presented by Hazelhurst in partnership with NSW Department of Education and NSW Education Standards Authority.



Hazelhurst

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