STUDENTS EXPLORE NARCISSISM, SELFIES, THE ENVIRONMENT AND RELIGION IN 2017 ARTEXPRESS

Elijah Innes, Hunter School of Performing Arts, *Eulogy of Age*, painting

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre presents its annual ARTEXPRESS, an exhibition this year showcasing 52 outstanding Higher School Certificate artworks that sees students experimenting across a range of media and pushing aesthetic, thematic and formal boundaries.

Hazelhurst will join with other venues across Sydney in hosting an exhibition that is popular with the general public and thousands of school students.

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

The students of this year’s ARTEXPRESS explore identity relevant to our time through portraiture, including self and cultural identity, pushed in a range of techniques utilising both old and new styles. The paintings *Spice of Life* by Ebrahim Khanbhai explore the styles of Nicholas Harding and Ben Quilty to portray his grandparents, who appear as if from another place and time.

Elijah Innes and Michael Cavanagh have used contemporary technology to produce large scale portraits to provoke us to contemplate their technical achievements and implied meanings. Elijah Innes’ painting *Eulogy of Age* appropriates Christian iconography to explore through digital painting how the worship of
a God is replaced by the narcissistic worship of self-idolism, appropriate in an age of selfies.

Perhaps the most profound recurring theme this year is the environment. Kyle Sier’s photomedia work *In Isolation*, contrasts the beauty of colour in the natural world with stark black and white images of the man-made environment, while juxtaposing the fast-pace of the city. Through printmaking with stitching Arabella Barnard reflects in a Collection of Works entitled *Imprint*, the memories made by collected natural objects and textures. Bethany Hoyt’s sculpture *Biophilia* utilises traditional crafts to look at found objects such as disposable plastic containers and how they combine with the ecosystem. Her work uses knitting, shibori and crochet to explore the relationship of humans and the natural world. Spencer Fay’s photomedia *Blurred Lines* reduces architectural forms to minimal lines in pursuit of modern society’s responsibility for nature and our environment.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:
11 February – 26 March 2017
Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, 782 Kingsway, Gymea NSW
Daily from 10am – 5pm - Free
Tel 8536 5700 Fax: 8536 5750 Email: hazelhurst@ssc.nsw.gov.au or www.hazelhurst.com.au

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ARTEXPRESS Events 2017
HAZELHURST HSC EVENING FORUM
Wednesday 22 February 6.30pm - 8pm
Hear exhibitors tell the story behind their work. All welcome. Fee: $7 per senior secondary student
Bookings essential on 8536 5731

ARTEXPRESS FEST DAY
Sunday 26 March 10am - 4pm
ARTEXPRESS exhibition and family art making, music, mural painting, face painting, film Club and food.

HSC INTENSIVE WORKSHOPS
Students can develop skills and extend their art practice by enrolling in a program designed for senior secondary students.
Bookings essential on 8536 5731

WORKING PLEIN AIR with Nicole Kelly
This workshop focuses on a practical approach to drawing and painting, working outdoors in the gardens of Hazelhurst. Sunday 26 February, 10am to 4pm. Fee: $70, plus $20 materials fee

WORKING IN MIXED MEDIA with LOUISA CHIRCOP
This mixed media workshop will explore developing an image or idea working in a variety of materials. Sunday 12 March, 10am to 4pm. Fee: $75, includes some materials

PHOTOGRAPHY & PHOTO MEDIA with TOM HUNGERFORD
Explore creative photography and manipulating your images with Photoshop through collage, colouring and layering. Sunday 12 March, 10am to 4pm. Fee: $74, maximum 7 places

SLIP CASTING with Claudia Citton
Broaden your ceramic knowledge by learning to slip cast using moulds. Sundays 19 & 26 March 2017, 10am-4pmFee: $ 140, plus $22 materials fee, maximum of 10 places

SOLAR PLATE ETCHING with Mathew Abblitt
Explore solar plate printmaking, turning your drawings or photos into an etching. Sunday 26 March, 10am to 4pm. Fee: $70, plus $33 materials fee

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

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre is a facility of Sutherland Shire Council.
Principal Partners: Global Specialised Services, Tradies, Transdev, and Moran Aged Care.