

Media Release

19 January 2015

Hazelhurst
REGIONAL GALLERY & ARTS CENTRE

For immediate release



ARTEXPRESS

7 February – 22 March 2015



Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre is proud to present its annual offering of **ARTEXPRESS**, an exhibition showcasing a selection of 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 always extremely popular with both the general public and thousands of school students.

The Hazelhurst exhibition is strong in fresh ideas and reveals extraordinary technical skills by 50 young artists from the Sutherland Shire and throughout NSW. A visitor to ARTEXPRESS at Hazelhurst will be rewarded by seeing the sheer diversity that young people have employed in depicting sophisticated ideas. Artworks range across a variety of media, convention and techniques, with interesting themes ranging from issues of social, cultural and spiritual significance through to aspects of personal identity and home environment.

Harry Klein from Epping Boys High School explores the combination of masculine and feminine sex characteristics (androgyny) in his work titled *Flowing Between*. The body of work investigates the biological intersex physicality of gender. Extensively influenced by the work of artists Anthony Lister, Brett Whiteley and Adam Cullen, Klein's experimentation of form and use of colour has allowed the gender ambiguity to be distinct.

Zoe Izzard from De La Salle Catholic College Cronulla examines the classical interdependence between humanity and nature by focusing on the aesthetics of the athletic figure in the landscape. Her work titled *The Dryad* is a spirit which inhabits the wilderness in Ancient mythology. By exploring her local environment and revealing a variety of fragile ecosystems, a dialogue between the forms and textures of the figure and the natural world are investigated.

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Inaburra School student Grace Cracknell focused on anthropomorphism as the basis of her work. Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human form or characteristics to animals, which in many ancient cultures, has been used as a literary device in story telling. Her work titled the *The Owl and the Pussy Cat* intends to explore human mannerisms through animal stereotypes. Influenced by Edward Lear's poem of the same name, imagery and symbolism are used to re-engage the audience with timeless constructs addressed in the poem.

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre welcomes the teaching fraternity, students and the general public to an exhibition that highlights the skill and inventiveness that underpins this year's choice of artworks.

Images (left to right): Harry Klein, Epping Boys HS, *Flowing Between* (detail), painting; Zoe Izzard, De La Salle Catholic College Cronulla, *The Dryad*, photomedia; Grace Cracknell, Inaburra School, *The Owl and the Pussy Cat*, collection of work.

On Show: 7 February – 22 March 2015

At: Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre, 782 Kingsway, Gymea NSW

Open: Daily from 10am – 5pm

Admission: Free

Enquiries: Tel 8536 5700 Fax: 8536 5750 Email: hazelhurst@ssc.nsw.gov.au
www.hazelhurst.com.au

SPECIAL EVENTS

ARTEXPRESS FORUMS

EVENING SESSION

Wednesday 18 February 2015 @ 6.30pm \$7 per student

Join exhibitors to hear the stories behind their works, including conceptual development and exploration of expressive forms with a question and answer session. Bookings please call 8536 5731.

DAY SESSIONS

Monday 23 February 2015 @10am and 12.30pm \$7 per student

Guest facilitator **Craig Malyon**, art educator and author of *Excel Revise HSC in a Month*, will discuss developing a body of work with ARTEXPRESS students. The forums are an open discussion where students can ask questions, talk about ideas and find new ways of exploring their body of work.

Bookings please call Kate on 8536 5745.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Marketing Manager Andrea Merlak (02) 8536 5739

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery & Arts Centre is a Sutherland Shire Council initiative.

