

Drawing conclusions

YEAR 10 and 11 art students from Chatham High School spent more than an hour at the Manning Regional Art Gallery yesterday morning examining and gaining inspiration from the Art Express exhibition.

After an introduction from gallery director Sue Mitchell, who explained that the exhibition consisted of a small selection of the best works submitted by visual arts students in last year's HSC, the students dispersed with their question sheet to go exploring the deeper meaning and artistic examples of each piece.

Chatham High art teacher Rebecca Humphreys said the exhibition really puts things in perspective for the students.

"These kids are only one or two years older. It's something to aspire to and an achievable thing. They have had the same opportunity in education and they just need to put their mind to it."

She said the variety of subject matter and the art forms are appealing across the board.

Student Jessica King, who had been to visit the exhibition before, said she liked the fact it showcased the work of students because it is much more realistic to them than seeing something by a more professional artist.

Amanda Hodder agrees, saying it is great to see what is possible.

We asked some of the students which work they liked and why...

Rebecca Humphreys (right) Chatham High School art teacher

An illustrator herself, Ms Humphreys chose *We Were Annihilated, Abolished, Vapourised* by Louis Wakley as her favourite.

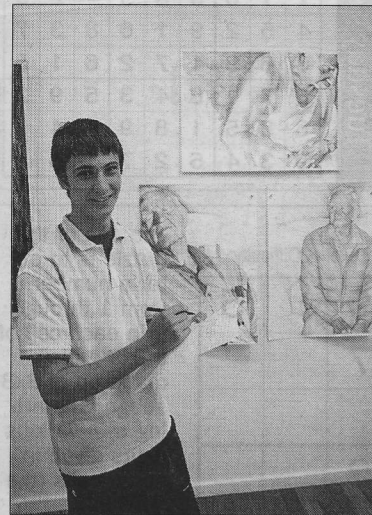
"I like the fine detail and the fact they've used really random patterns and then developed into something dream-like. The intricacies is what I like."



Jessica King
Year 11

Jessica really liked the colour, tone and concept used in the illustration *Reflections* by Alexandria Warden.

"I see a lot of emotion which is the main thing and also the material practice. It's a really detailed illustration and a realistic drawing, and I'm into the more realistic things rather than more abstract. It's something that would inspire me."



Joel Davis
Year 11

Joel was keen on the drawing *Just Ed* by Emily Wilson, a depiction of a frail and solemn old man.

"It shows how wisdom is gained as we age yet we still become frail and old, which is sort of a contradiction. You get wise over time but we're always inevitably going to die. I like the tones. I could tell the concept before I read it (in the artist's statement). It's really appealing."



Amanda Hodder
Year 11

Amanda was immediately drawn to the illustration *Reflections* by Alexandria Warden.

"It's just really unusual, kind of out there and really detailed." She agrees it would be something that would inspire her major work. "It's like how it's got people screaming and looking all really sad and depressed. It's a bit of a wake-call in life."



Emily Byram (above)
Year 11

Emily was first attracted to the piece *The Nature of Vanity* by Eloise Kent because of the colour, and then gained an appreciation

of the texture and the use of string.

"It's about plastic surgery and how you see yourself. I think it's about what you can change."