



creative generation
excellence awards in visual art and design

2011–2012 touring exhibition



Front cover artwork: Rebecca Nguyen Narangba Valley State High School
detail of *Phoenix Rising from the Ashes* — Digital illustration on photo paper

Message from the Minister

2011 Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Art and Design

Art is an important part of our lives. It can entertain, thrill, inspire and provide space for reflection.

The Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Art and Design, now in their 21st year, recognise, celebrate and honour student artists at Queensland's schools.

The 34 talented young artists chosen as recipients of the 2010 Excellence Awards have used a range of mediums from the traditional to the avant-garde to explore issues that range from the deeply personal to the profoundly social.

Drawn from a field of 491 entries, these students have all benefited from a five-day residential workshop in Brisbane in 2010 where they worked with professional artists.

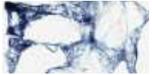
The 2011-12 touring exhibition will take their work to audiences across Queensland providing valuable exposure and experience.

The Department of Education and Training welcomes the support of the Queensland Art Gallery and Queensland Museum and Gallery Services in bring the award-winning works to a wider audience.

I am delighted the Queensland Government has been able to assist our next generation of artists who will, I hope, one day take Queensland's sights and stories to the world.

Please enjoy this showcase of Queensland's new creative generation.

CAMERON DICK MP
Minister for Education and Industrial Relations



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Angela Ahn

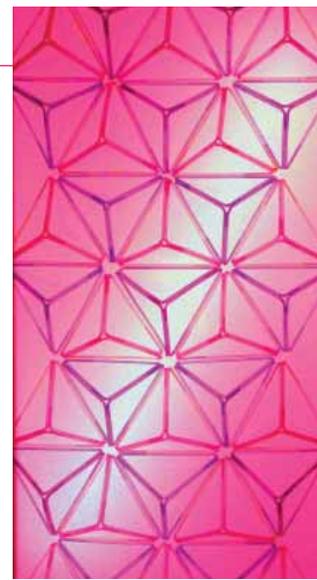
Mansfield State High School, Brisbane
detail of *Urban Skateboarders* — Paper and pencil

Many tensions fuel the atmosphere of the city. Skateboarders provide a means of expression that allows me to communicate the underlying dynamics of the urban environment. Skateboarders are universal and often represent a city's subculture. The movements in the air, energy and erratic pace mimic many aspects of the city. Blue lines were created using watercolour pencil and the direction and emphasis of the pencil varied in places. Ambiguity of the drawings gives the feeling of a fleeting moment and anonymity. Contorted, spare and ravaged figures reveal tension, while delicate pencil rendering contradicts the stature, creating awkwardness within the work.

Gurpaal Bains

Brisbane Grammar School
detail of *Daft Pink* — Light box, acrylic and straws

The music of Daft Punk and the visual aspects of their live shows influenced me; in particular the structured form of their music. I became engaged with the notions of patterns in my early paintings, which were influenced by Piet Mondrian, and his reduction of natural forms into a basic geometry. The pink light that vibrantly illuminates the area surrounding *Daft Pink* replicates the energy felt at live music performances, while the straw pyramids have a structured form of the archetypal art forms. The accompanying electronic music is my own original work.





Maeve Baker

Brisbane State High School
Every time something happens to me it's some kind of madness — Film

Dreams are influenced by events and people in our lives. This film is a compilation of my dreams. While dreaming, we experience one of the few times when we have absolute imaginative freedom. There is no control over the images we see and the only thing that determines them is the experiences we have. Because of the personal nature of the film's inspiration, viewers may not always entirely understand what the images are reflective of. However, making the two main characters male and female, allows the audience to relate to the film and create their own meaning at times when my message is ambiguous.

Peta Birkett

Columba Catholic College, Charters Towers
detail of *Fruits of her work* — Photograph

This work incorporates acrylics on a human canvas. The photograph embodies ghostly qualities. The link between art and biblical history is clear as the burden of Eve eating the forbidden fruit strangles her children, the future generations. The use of a male subject shows that Eve's mistake generates consequences for all people and isn't gender orientated.





Jacqui Brew

Coolum State High School, Sunshine Coast
detail of *A Lonely Train* — Digital photography

My intrinsic art conveys feelings of loss and isolation, through the use of photographs of people lost in a crowd. The pictures represent the inner turmoil of being completely alone and singled out while being surrounded by people. It shows that you don't necessarily have to be alone to be 'lonely'. I created these messages and feelings in relation to my life to signify my childhood growing up away from my mother and a large part of my family. Many children grow up alone and somewhat forgotten in today's society, and it stills shows in them as adults.



Adam Briggs

Hillbrook Anglican School, Brisbane
A death has occurred — Animation/film

These artworks aim to reveal what religion conceals. Yes, there are beliefs and a non-belief concerning life after death, but it is incorrect in coining the latter 'non-belief'. What you will see in these artworks is the belief in the afterlife and the belief in the absence of an afterlife. It is important that one recognises that religion and atheism and everything in between are all in the same realm of human belief. Religion is only a covert form of existentialism. What we do not or cannot know, we invent. Like advertising, we are convinced something is or is not. Look beyond what you are told or what you take as natural, for it is possible your beliefs are only a result of situational influence. Make sure that you explore the self, before you begin making assumptions about anything but.





Lauren
Clark

Sheldon College, Redland Bay
Vitruvian Woman — Paper and metal

This work reflects the struggle of the feminist movement in the late 19th century. The blanket of black origami flowers represents the anger and sadness that women felt over their subservient position in the world. Each flower is individually folded and stitched together to represent the women and the stereotypical jobs that women did. The flowers are sewn in sets of three which create a triangle, and along with the circle and the elastic band triangles, mirror the interpretation of perfect proportions in Da Vinci's *Vitruvian Man* and the dominance that men had over women.

Max
Cuneo

Anglican Church Grammar School, Brisbane
Fractured — Handcrafted ply skateboards, digital
X-ray prints, enamel

As a dedicated skateboarder, my work is inspired by a skateboarding accident, which left me with two broken arms. Restricted and unable to perform simple daily tasks, the painful and debilitating injuries made me realise what I took for granted physically. Once my wounds healed, I individually handcrafted each skateboard from ply and layered them with digital X-rays of my own arm. The boards represent my obsession and passion with skateboarding, and the X-rays symbolise the mental and physical struggle I endured throughout my painful and frustrating rehabilitation.



Rishenda Eldridge

Kings Christian College, Gold Coast
detail of *Sticks and Stones* — Nine mixed media panels, canvas, plaster, bones, printed imagery

'Sticks and stones can break your bones but words ... do harm you.' My artwork shows people that words are stronger than they get credit for. This is a common expression, but is it correct? Don't words harm? Everyone has encountered verbal abuse, it affects us and leaves a personal scar which can't be seen, but it can be felt. I used bones which will draw in my audience's attention as it is not considered the 'norm'. The sticks and stones help people remember the expression.



Chloe Fox

Trinity Bay State High School, Cairns
Who am I? — Mixed media collagraph

Growing up with a bi-cultural family, of Papua New Guinean and English descent, has had a significant impact on my way of life. *Who am I?* captures a very personal journey that I undertook in order to explore my Papua New Guinean heritage. The collagraphs symbolise the 20 provinces in PNG. The twisting and turning of the string on the plates represents the processes involved in shaping the person I have become. Producing this artwork has allowed me to understand who I am and the distances I have travelled to get to the location I am at today.



**Samantha
Free**

MacGregor State High School, Brisbane
Monopoly Thimble — Manipulated digital print

My work investigates the complex nature of family relationships. I have used the traditional Monopoly piece — the thimble — to symbolise my father. This thimble reflects the nature of the connection between my father and me. My father is my protector and my shield. My father had an upbringing within which he feels as though he was not protected by those who should have. As a result, he is very careful to ensure that this is not the case while I am growing up. The thimble represents the protective barrier between me and harm. My father wards off potential dangers, and while the thimble is not impervious, it (and he) has protected me well.

**Rohana
Fullarton**

Noosa District State High School,
Sunshine Coast
Beloved — Colour laser print

These images are a part of an extensive body of work that started with my interest in collographs and pressed flowers, the decay of pressed flowers and the idea of the press, layering and pressing objects together and how my mood affected my focus. Symbolically the rose is a figure of love, a beloved object. It is iconic, but also represents something deeply personal. It came to symbolise the support I have received and has been portrayed through the fragility and femininity of the rose. The rose has become the metaphor for something close to my heart, a connection with someone I trust who has been there through my emotional meltdowns, moments of happiness and my fragile state of mind and the pressures of life.





Emily Galea

Toowoomba State High School
House Sweet House — Photograph

Relating to the concept of 'communal', this artwork is representative of the fragility of a community, whose outward appearance is cast upon the world. These stencils show a predominantly stark community devoid of emotion and individuality, reminiscent of today's communities which have become somewhat sterile and lacking in personality; shadows of their former glory. Each house, while appearing stable from the outside, is merely two-dimensional, and we, the viewer, are able to see past the facade, into the precarious nature of its construction. When they become exposed, there is nothing remaining to support them.

Imogen Gartside

St Aidan's Anglican Girls School, Brisbane
detail of *I'm Not Afraid of Virginia Woolf* —
Sculpture, assemblage, textiles, collage

This is a common tale. It is about how an individual can be consumed by something that may appear as a blessing or talent, but is in fact a burden for that person. I wanted to explore the debilitating legacy of an excess of sensitivity and sensibility and how this can end in self-destruction. Virginia Woolf was my companion throughout this work and together we explored the notion of 'escapism' and torment. I have tried to recreate aspects of her physical being and mental psyche: the rocks in her fur coat pockets that she drowned wearing, her torn nightdress stitched with words, and her apron, so frequently bearing the ink stains from her hands. On the writing desk are the words that link us together.



Sophia Goldschmidt

Sunshine Beach State High School,
Sunshine Coast
Canopic Jars — Porcelain

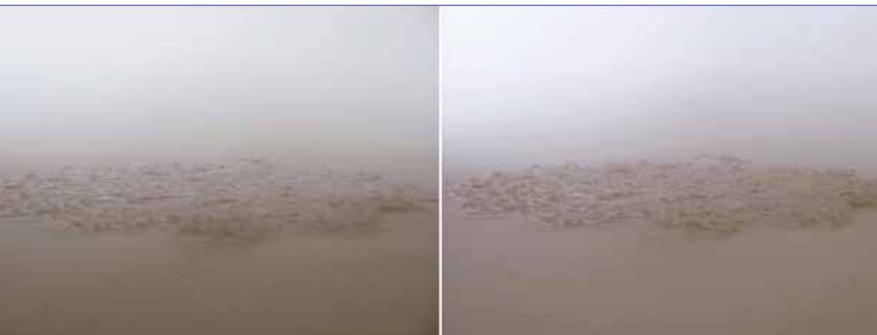
This artwork comprises four Ancient Egyptian canopic jars with four Egyptian gods' heads for lids, but each vessel is engraved with designs representing four modern human desires: drugs, money, time and rock and roll (entertainment). This artwork represents how man's values have changed from preoccupations with spirituality and the afterlife to caring about themselves and what they want in the here and now. I hope that this artwork inspires people to think about what they find truly important in life.



Emilie Grima

Whitsunday Anglican School, Mackay
detail of *Words by Heart* — Mixed media on paper

Words by heart demonstrates how music is my entire existence. Music and I go hand in hand because I have grown up with it being a part of my everyday life. The stitched timeline around the picture does not always encapsulate the whole image. Life is a journey and the unfinished stitching represents the uncertain times. The music is a way of getting through these times. The words in the background convey how lyrics can tell the story of your life. The uniform in the portrait is what is restricting, contradicting the fact that music is a release.



Anna Hawke

Somerville House, Brisbane
Untitled — Photography

My photography is based purely on simplicity. I hope to bring a singular focus onto everyday objects to explore their simple beauty. Through manipulation of camera angles and lighting I have represented the human narrative through various objects, in particular the humble doily. To me, this image portrays an understated elegance that is often lost in the modern world.

Ailie James-McMaster

St Hilda's School, Gold Coast
Sporulation from the Universal Veil
— Mixed media

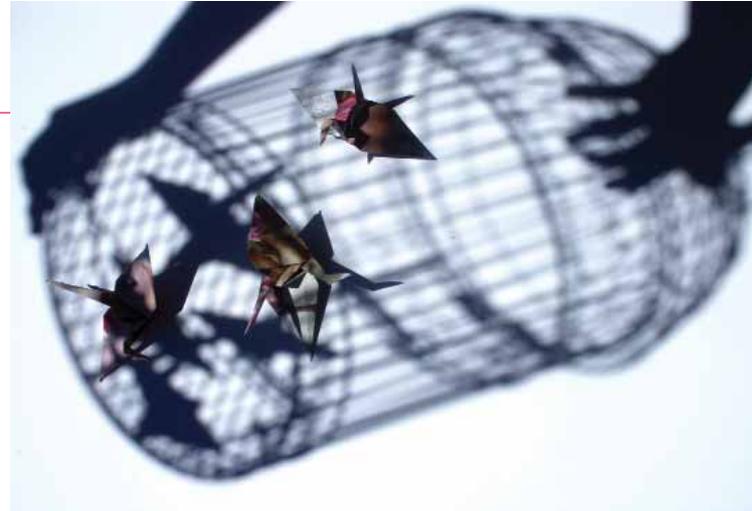
How many appreciate the beauty of the mushroom's structure and form? Does anyone take the time to ponder how they 'arrived', how they are created or even what they really look like? This I wondered and thought to tell their story. Beginning with prints of their spores, turps rubbings and watercolours, I first made an artist book that follows an artistic interpretation of their life cycle from the initial spore distribution — as they leave the shelter of the universal veil and begin the quest to find a suitable habitat — to its resurrection back into the soil. Look, be mindful, develop an appreciation for another species by looking.



Taylor
Kirkpatrick

Goondiwindi State High School
Free to Be — Sculpture and digital projection

The concept of media manipulation and construction of identity is symbolised through the discipline of origami. Paper sculptures of cranes from media images in magazines create a metaphor for self and the construction of identity. The juxtaposition of the birds and a shadow of a cage superimposed on the birds acts as a projection of media influence and manipulation in the formation of identity. Although free to be yourself, there is always the shadow of influence hovering and manipulating our identity through social forces and acceptable norms.



Meg
Krautz

Trinity Bay State High School, Cairns
detail of *Etched Sequence 1* — Zinc plate intaglio
on hahnemule

My work explores the concept of degradation and how man-made construction will eventually be reclaimed by the natural environment. The abandoned railway siding shed documented in this work has been represented on three individual zinc plates, which have been etched in acid for increasingly longer periods of time. Both the original and resulting print are displayed as evidence of the degradation I observed taking place.



Samantha Kummerfeld

Good Shepherd Catholic College, Mt Isa
detail of *Carpe Diem: A moment in time* — Moving image, film

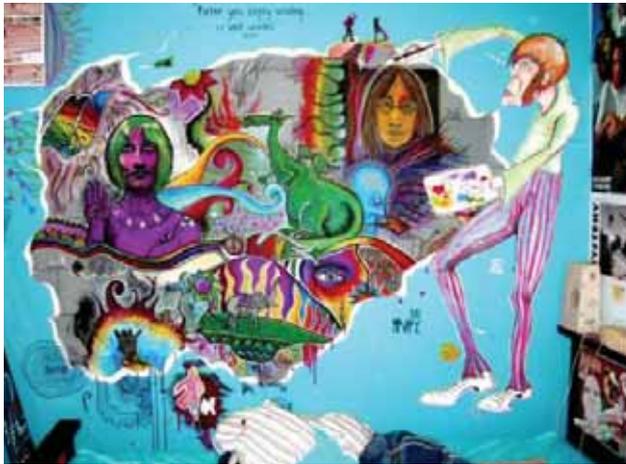
Life is unpredictable, uncontrollable. The montage of photos captures a young girl in the peak of her innocence, as she dances around in her backyard without a care in the world. These images were edited and compiled into a video format and accompanied by a live soundtrack. This video is a representation of how those instantaneous moments we have in life give us a true glimpse of who we really are. These moments that we let go as if they mean nothing essentially shape and mould us into the person that we will become throughout the course of our lives. This video suggests that somewhere along the line we have lost the innocence that allows us to capture these moments and shape our real view of the world. Ultimately, we are our experiences.



Savannah Lenggu

Sunshine Beach State High School,
Sunshine Coast
The Human Condition — Animation

I was inspired to create this animation by the concept of the human condition, books and recording. I tried to show the process of a book being 'born' and used to record. Through expressing the idea of recording an idea, I also recorded an idea. I drew pictures into Photoshop using a tablet and stylus. I split these into movable components and began to make tiny movements, saving each one as a separate .png file. I put these into the program Premier as frames and created the music (soundtrack) in a program called Sibelius.



Brad
Loudon

St Andrew's Lutheran College, Gold Coast
Places and Spaces — DVD

This movie shows people how I let stuff out of my mind on to my wall. It was created with no initial motive, it was just a free expression that I captured through film. The art was performed with no plan and was made up of a lot of influences and concepts that interest and inspire me.



Lauren
McIntyre

Whitsunday Anglican School, Mackay
Every Lady and Her Cat — Mixed media and collage

This piece demonstrates the social classes within society and the expectations of women in our ever-changing world. It explores the ideals of identity and feminism, where young women are forced to follow stereotypical trends within society. I produced this piece to make a social comment on females and their roles in today's world. By creating this piece from metal and paper, I have demonstrated the variety of women in our society.



**Georgia
Mackay**

MacGregor State High School, Brisbane
detail of *Plastic Bag* — Manipulated digital print

My work investigates the use of plastic bags to pack up my belongings and move between my mother's and father's house every weekend. To me, plastic bags represent transience. My sense of my 'home' is carried in those plastic bags. The shapes that the plastic takes, tears that develop, and the increasing and diminishing volume capture for me the fragile and temporary family structure that I have.



**Katy
Miller**

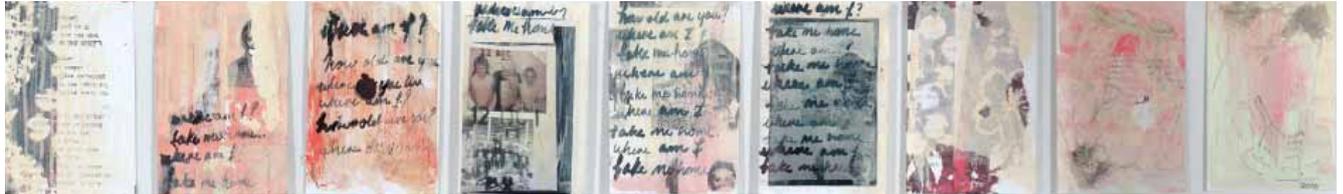
St Hilda's School, Gold Coast
Fijian Threads — Digitally manipulated photographs,
hand stitching

I have used my birthplace as a metaphor for the essence of my life: despite the emotional and physical changes that have taken place, my cultural influence remains constant. The Fijian culture and way of life have greatly influenced my current values and beliefs. Artists Charwei Tsai and Andy Goldsworthy, who both use natural and ephemeral objects as a basis for their work, influenced mine. The series uses a flower's life cycle to represent change, indicating shifting emotions, thoughts and actions throughout time. The Fijian tapa is a symbolic representation of Fiji embedded into the petals of the changing flower. Fiji is the essence and the threads represent its story, in that the entangled loose threads connect each image and stand for the threads of my life.

Rebecca Mulligan

Brisbane State High School
detail of *A Progression of Memories* — Mixed media on paper

This is a collection of memories I have about my grandmother and the disease she dealt with — Alzheimer's. The series of postcards shows the progression of the disease through the seven different stages, each row representing a stage as how I remember it. The progression of the disease can be seen as you move down each row with things repeated, and finally blank postcards to represent her passing peacefully.



Claire Murray

St Aidan's Anglican Girls School, Brisbane
detail of *Anonymous Remains ...* — Textiles

Someone one day made a choice to buy these clothes. They must have had all sorts of experiences and emotions in them, and ultimately something must have happened that they chose to get rid of them to the op shop from where I purchased them. These clothes hold their owners' secrets and will never reveal them. Influenced by the work of Jen Shin and Jean Harmon Allan, I have cut away sections of them leaving their 'skeletons'. These cut-out sections I then rolled and stitched so they represent small notes that might ultimately, when unrolled, divulge their secrets.

Dang Nguyen

Corinda State High School, Brisbane
Outside Box — Mixed media

The traits of technology and development, cultures and subcultures in this superficial day and age have been illustrated in an urban futuristic style of fictitious and comical design upon cardboard boxes, a common object in the days of our lives. It narrates a small story of these quirky characters from the distant future stumbling upon a mystery item. Its comical style is emphasised by the distinct bold strokes of black ink and, with each slide, poses the dominant colour of yellow creating links and highlighting the main themes in the portrayal of each event. In contrast to the cardboard, the oil pastels bring out that life.



Rebecca Nguyen

Narangba Valley State High School
Phoenix Rising from the Ashes — Digital illustration
on photo paper

This piece represents my cultural background from a feminist viewpoint. Asian women weren't considered equal to men. I believe, being a female myself, that women have more strength than they are commended for because they have lived through the dominance of men until now. There are many symbolic references in this piece, including the phoenix which denotes justice, fidelity and obedience, and the temples on the bottom which represent the Confucian religion which was highly practised and influenced the low worth of females. The Chinese characters quote strength and power, while the signature is my Vietnamese name translated into Chinese.

**William
Pidgeon**

Rockhampton State High School
A Foot in Each Camp — Acrylic on canvas

Until I was 16 I lived in Darwin. This painting represents the two sides of my world in Darwin. On one hand there is my Indigenous skin group, of which the crocodile is a totemic figure and is symbolised by the cross-hatching. On the other, there is my European heritage that is represented by the more realistic representation in the head and tail of the crocodile.



**Shalisa
Sanderson**

Gordonvale State High School, Cairns
Starving — Mixed media

This creation symbolises the eating disorders often common among young models. I chose to explore this issue by creating a wearable artwork. The forks symbolise the meals forfeited by the models to achieve the desired thin body shape.





Ahmad
Shah Nazari

Yeronga State High School, Brisbane
MNZ — Pencil on canson paper

MNZ is a representation of my family around the time we were forced to flee Afghanistan. I love drawing in pencil because I am very practised at rendering fine detail of expression in this media. I wanted that, because these are people I love and my memories of that time are very strong. Although I used some photographs to work from, we have very few from that time, so I had to rely very much on my memory of what my family was like then.



Elizabeth
Ward

Mt St Michael's College, Brisbane
detail of *Precious Handling* — Photography and collectable

My artwork is a poignant symbol of my family's history and cultural heritage. The focus of this is a pair of precious powder pink slippers handed down through three generations. They started their journey in a small village in Russia with my great-grandmother, and travelled with her to the shores of Australia. They have been handed down from generation to generation, showing that no matter how old or young the women in my family are, their hands would have once touched the precious pink slippers.



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