

# FIRST CLASS 19

The *First Class* exhibition project has enjoyed more than a decade of encouragement and enthusiastic support from Lake Macquarie, Newcastle and Central Coast schools and the wider community. Each year the project has been selected from high calibre Higher School Certificate submissions made in the region during the previous year.

This year is particularly significant for the project as it has its first iteration in our reconfigured, extended and renamed space, the Museum of Art and Culture, Lake Macquarie. What remains consistent, however, is our aim to extend the audience's experience of the breadth and quality of work by young student artists of the region. It reinforces Lake Macquarie City Council's continuing commitment to supporting local production and education.

For this twelfth exhibition in the project series, we received more than 145 submissions from 37 schools, setting selectors Helen Willis and Courtney Novak a challenging but stimulating task. Much more than a 'best of', the exhibition is curated around a theme or focus to draw the works together. Nature and the environment, memories, family and the importance of culture dominate in *First Class 19*.

Through the visual arts, these student works reveal subjective observations of current concerns such as mental health, climate change, pollution and social injustice. The fragility of the human mind, our emotional connection to memories, exploration of identity and the threat to our ecosystems are presented through a rich series of visual narratives.

MAC is proud to be able to host this exhibition in the new space and I trust you will enjoy it and the ideas presented by the artists.

DEBBIE ABRAHAM DIRECTOR, MUSEUM OF ART AND CULTURE

**Jade Behrens**

Warners Bay High School  
*Seeking Perfection*  
acrylic paint, board  
dimensions variable

**Preston Brook**

Kotara High School  
*Recovered Memories*  
ink, paper, wood, acrylic paint  
dimensions variable

**Monique Carey**

Warners Bay High School  
*Surface Tension*  
lino, clay, paper, ink, clear glaze,  
copper oxide  
dimensions variable

**Minha Choi**

Lambton High School  
*Blooming Discord*  
paper clay, underglaze, clear glaze  
dimensions variable

**Temeka Clarence**

Maitland High School  
*Hanging by a Thread*  
yarn, plastic bags, straws, fibre,  
miniature plastic found objects  
1.2m x 1.2m

**Renae Cleary**

Warners Bay High School  
*City, Bridge, Arch*  
timber, charcoal, metal,  
paint, newspaper, twine,  
rubber tubing, wallpaper,  
brown paper, mesh, copper pipe  
dimensions variable

**Tristan Deeg**

Callaghan College Jesmond  
Senior Campus  
*In the Best Interests of the Public*  
photomedia  
dimensions variable

**Lauren Donoghoe**

Kotara High School  
*Industrialis-Ocean*  
scrap metal, timber, wire,  
patina, driftwood  
dimensions variable

**Kaylyn Fairhurst**

Kotara High School  
*Suppressed Distress*  
clay, underglaze, clear  
glaze, paper, ink  
dimensions variable

**Melanie Hain**

Warners Bay High School  
*Fragility*  
paper clay, underglaze  
60 x 35 x 35cm

**Jasmine Hammond**

Kotara High School  
*Profanation*  
clay, paper, ink, timber, patina  
dimensions variable

**Morgan Hawkins**

Singleton High School  
*Dear Older Self*  
photomedia, digital printed  
objects - blanket, hand-towel,  
clock, cushion  
dimensions variable

**Abbey Hindmarch**

Warners Bay High School  
*Validation*  
charcoal, ink, thread, paper  
dimensions variable

**Caitlin Houston**

Belmont High School  
*Bibliophilist*  
pencil, paper, acrylic  
paint, books  
dimensions variable

**Matt Humby**

Merewether High School  
*The Thoughtlessness and  
Vices of Honest Men*  
acrylic paint, oil sticks,  
oil pastels, artine pen, board  
dimensions variable

**Charlotte Ison**

Northlakes High School  
*Miss Misogyny*  
photomedia  
dimensions variable

**Gabriella King**

Newcastle Grammar School  
*Everything Falls in a Tremendous  
Shower, Dissolving Me*  
photomedia, copic markers, paper  
dimensions variable

**Ainsley Knox**

Kotara High School  
*Fragmented*  
acrylic paint, marine plywood  
120 x 90cm

**Susanna Kwok**

Merewether High School  
*The Fortune-ate Ones*  
steel, wire, newspaper, tape,  
paint, plaster bandages,  
Chinese restaurant receipts  
and menus, fortune cookie  
wrappers, chopsticks,  
take-away boxes  
76 x 60 x 95cm

**Alex Leman**

Hunter School of the  
Performing Arts  
*The Last Judgement*  
dry-point etching, stonehenge  
paper, acrylic wash, charbonnel  
aqua wash, etching ink  
46 x 59cm each

**Claudia McCartney**

St Brigid's Catholic College,  
Lake Munmorah  
*Women's Business*  
pastel, charcoal, acrylic paint, canvas  
dimensions variable

The work imagines organisms as  
**oversized, living, breathing**  
entities, each with their own distinctive personalities.

BETHANY URBANOWICZ

The body  
stretches  
and contorts,  
straining to find freedom and  
relief from the mind.

TAMMY MARLEY

**Shae-Lee McDonald**  
Toronto High School  
*Untitled*  
pvc pipes, wire, glue, acrylic  
paint, spray paint, tissue paper,  
masks, plywood, found objects  
230 x 120 x 60cm

**Brad McKinnon**  
Warners Bay High School  
*What is a Giraffe?*  
paper, hessian, acrylic paint  
dimensions variable

**Jasmine McPherson**  
Warners Bay High School  
*Accretion*  
laser cut plywood, digital  
print on cotton rag paper  
dimensions variable

**Sophie McSparran**  
Toronto High School  
*The Perfect Trajection*  
wood, plastic, metal, paint,  
resin, porcelain, paper,  
found objects  
150 x 150cm

**Tammy Marley**  
Lambton High School  
*Contortion*  
oil paint, plywood  
dimensions variable

**Tahnee Marriott**  
Warners Bay High School  
*The Nature of Ambiguity*  
photomedia on fine art paper  
60 x 60cm each image

**Makenzie Milton**  
West Wallsend High School  
*Maelstrom*  
photomedia, digital video  
dimensions variable

**Tahlia Nicholas**  
Merewether High School  
*Souvenir: What I Remember,*  
*What I Forget*  
collagraphs, organza, paper, ink  
dimensions variable

**Teghan O'Beirne**  
Lake Macquarie High School  
*Terror Nullius*  
acrylic paint, lino, ink,  
paper, charcoal  
dimensions variable

**Luke O'Donnell**  
Newcastle High School  
*Trippin'*  
timber skateboard decks,  
posca paint pens, spray paint  
dimensions variable

**Ellie Pritchard**  
Warners Bay High School  
*Head Above Water*  
photomedia  
dimensions variable

**Serena Rossi**  
Kotara High School  
*In Loving Memory*  
pencil, charcoal, paper  
dimensions variable

**Deema Rouady**  
Wadalba Community School  
*An Anthology of Terrorists*  
photomedia  
100 x 100cm

**Redd Sarson**  
Wadalba Community School  
*Seventeen*  
photomedia  
dimensions variable

**Hannah Small**  
Newcastle High School  
*Pigments of Emotion*  
timber, acrylic paint, posca  
markers, ink  
dimensions variable

**Madison Small**  
Lake Munmorah High School  
*A Dying Art*  
encyclopedias, photomedia,  
perspex, paper, velvet  
dimensions variable

**Tylah Smith**  
Wadalba Community School  
*The Tempest*  
oil sticks, timber  
dimensions variable

**Rebekah Staunton**  
Singleton High School  
*Dream-Girl*  
photomedia, embroidery thread  
dimensions variable

**Lincoln Trevett**  
Kotara High School  
*Queens*  
paper, gold leaf, graphite,  
frames, photomedia  
dimensions variable

**Bethany Urbanowicz**  
Warners Bay High School  
*In Bloom*  
fibre, hessian, wool, wire,  
fabric, gold leaf  
dimensions variable

**Harriet Venter**  
Newcastle Grammar School  
*Metamorphosis*  
pencil, paper, book,  
found objects  
dimensions variable

**Jackson Voorby**  
Belmont High School  
*The Relevance of Narrative,*  
*The Preservation of Memory and*  
*the Inevitability of Decay*  
pencil, paper, copic markers, pen  
dimensions variable

**Madison Waugh**  
Warners Bay High School  
*Depletion*  
clay, iron oxide, glaze  
dimensions variable

**Logan Whitten**  
Morisset High School  
*An Individual's Choices*  
digital video, acrylic paint,  
canvas, paper, paintbrush  
dimensions variable

**Natasha Wilson**  
Heritage College,  
Morisset  
*A Drop of Ocean Water*  
plastic milk bottles, metal,  
timber, LED lights  
100 x 100 x 35cm

**Nicholas Wilson**  
Merewether High School  
*A Land of Great Fertility*  
photomedia on aluminium,  
artline pen, ink, copic markers  
55 x 360cm

The  
brush is  
a motif  
that symbolises  
painting the planet with  
greed and negligence.

LOGAN WHITTEN

Many individuals  
feel isolated and struggle  
to express how their mental adversaries affect them  
physically, mentally and emotionally.

KAYLYN FAIRHURST

CURATED BY HELEN WILLIS IN CONSULTATION WITH COURTNEY NOVAK  
MUSEUM OF ART AND CULTURE, LAKE MACQUARIE 15 FEBRUARY – 5 APRIL 2020