

# FIRST CLASS 20

Now in its thirteenth year, *First Class 20* continues to celebrate outstanding works produced by HSC Visual Arts students from the Hunter and Central Coast regions from the previous year. Giving young artists the chance to present their work within a professional gallery environment, *First Class 20* also provides audience opportunities, with a nationally recognised platform showcasing the high calibre of works produced in the area.

Employing a variety of visual imagery and techniques, many of these artists have turned inwards to explore the impact of this pandemic year on emotional and mental health. Themes of family, memories and the importance of home are distinctive concepts predominant in these exceptional times. Intimate works explore complex connections to home and identity, nostalgia, youth and personal relationships.

Through the avenue of visual arts these student bodies of work reveal subjective insights into current concerns such as COVID, science and medicine, isolation, fear and anxiety. Many works highlight the vulnerability and fragility of the individual, allowing the audience an entry into the artist's world through revealing private moments. A deep connection to nature is also explored with symbolic interpretations commenting on environmental impacts, damaged ecosystems and ecological responsibilities. The artworks embody the uncertain narrative of life today and comment on contemporary issues faced by society.

- HELEN WILLIS

**Trinity Alt**

Avondale School  
*20 Contagion 20*  
clay, wood, metal, glaze,  
found objects  
dimensions variable

**Lilly Andrews**

Lake Munmorah High School  
*Collision*  
acrylic paint, canvas  
1860 x 1220

**Dylan Arkinstall**

Lambton High School  
*Behemoth*  
Camphor Laurel wood  
dimensions variable

**Amelia Banister**

Callaghan College Jesmond Campus  
*Portraits of Helena*  
photomedia, paper  
1210 x 880 each

**Tenicia Barry**

West Wallsend High School  
*Bird Song*  
paper, wood, photomedia,  
acrylic paint  
dimensions variable

**Pepita Barton**

Merewether High School  
*Delicate Deadly*  
polypropylene, acetate  
dimensions variable

**Grace Bosworth**

St Francis Xavier College Hamilton  
*Unveiled*  
oil paint, canvas  
dimensions variable

**Ashlyn Brady**

Toronto High School  
*Lost in the Moment*  
photomedia, paper, foam board  
900 x 600 each

**Natalie Costa**

Kincumber High School  
*Dramatically an Expert at Hiding in Plain Sight*  
photomedia, paper  
dimensions variable

**Maya Cox**

Merewether High School  
*Inheritance*  
photomedia, epon enhance matt paper  
dimensions variable

**Emily Davidson**

Maitland Grossmann High School  
*Youthful Unrest*  
coloured pencil, oil paint, acrylic paint,  
water colour paint, paper, gouache,  
timber, perspex, LED lights  
dimensions variable

**Sophie Davidson**

Warners Bay High School  
*Is What's Yours Mine?...Joy*  
paper, rice paper, watercolour,  
gouache, acrylic paint  
2770 x 600

**Alivia Dwyer**

Warners Bay High School  
*What They Don't See*  
ink, paper  
5700 x 920

**Amber Eldridge**

Irrawang High School  
*Vessel of Rebirth*  
clay, bark, ink, paper  
dimensions variable

**Taylah Ellercamp**

Swansea High School  
*'My Elements'- Earth, Water, Fire, Air*  
arches paper, timber, beads, raffia,  
cotton, ink, paint, tissue paper,  
charcoal  
dimensions variable

**Jasmine Gibson**

Glendale Technology High School  
*Bloodline Motormorphosis*  
Toyota Corolla car bonnet,  
photomedia, paper, air-dry clay, thread,  
graphite, canvas  
1350 x 900

**Naz Gulmez**

Merewether High School  
*Time, Interrupted*  
photomedia, paper, video  
dimensions variable

**Mikayla Haddow**

Hunter Christian School  
*Fire Proof*  
earthenware clay, raku clay, porcelain  
slip, underglaze  
dimensions variable

**Delaya Johns**

Irrawang High School  
*The Creation of Aesthete*  
wax, wood, paper, ink, photomedia  
dimensions variable

Whilst the virus has caused many deaths worldwide,  
like many other elements of nature it is  
a beautiful microscopic particle,  
a complex, convoluted design of intricacy.

# FIRST CLASS 20

My mind felt like a  
degraded landscape  
needing restoration,  
a landscape that was mine to restore and conserve

JACINTA LECK

**Rosie Jones**  
St Joseph's College Lochinvar  
*Heritage*  
porcelain clay, glaze, photomedia,  
paper  
dimensions variable

**Zara Kelly**  
Merewether High School  
*It's the things they'll never know that  
make us who we are*  
stonehenge paper, graphite pencil  
760 x 560 each

**Isabela Kennedy**  
Irrawang High School  
*The Issues at Hand*  
paint, wood, paper, metal  
700 x 1230

**Alanna King**  
Warners Bay High School  
*Benjamin*  
paper clay, underglaze  
dimensions variable

**Jacinta Leck**  
Warners Bay High School  
*Rewilding*  
paper clay, wood, paper, digital images,  
wire, cyanotypes, perspex  
dimensions variable

**Madeleine Lock**  
Merewether High School  
*Lifebook*  
paper, ink, light sensitive emulsion  
dimensions variable

**Jenna Marley**  
Merewether High School  
*High Tide*  
raku clay, plaster bandage, impasto,  
acrylic paint, wood, coral, shells,  
model figurines, plasticine  
dimensions variable

**Josef Milan**  
Merewether High School  
*Hard to Grasp*  
acrylic paint, oil stick, spray paint,  
fabric, timber, board  
2820 x 1125

**Cassidy Motum**  
Warners Bay High School  
*Natural Revolution*  
paper, thread, watercolour,  
ink, markers  
dimensions variable

**Bella Myers**  
Toronto High School  
*Spectral*  
photomedia, metallic paper  
200 x 100

**Liam Nash**  
St Mary's Catholic Collage Gateshead  
*184 Kilometres*  
photomedia, paper  
2045 x 930

**Milli Neilson-Spitzer**  
Newcastle High School  
*Stockpiling 2020*  
sewing thread, linen,  
embroidery hoops  
dimensions variable

**Abbey-Rose O'Toole**  
Belmont High School  
*This Blue Cradled Mind*  
acrylic paint, canvas, drypoint etching,  
cyanotype, steel, wire  
dimensions variable

**Myra Paleologos**  
Merewether High School  
*Papou's Perivoli: Pop's Veggie Patch*  
prisma-colours, paper  
dimensions variable

**Sarah Peisley**  
Kotara High School  
*Endemic*  
paper, ink, cotton, silk  
dimensions variable

**Holly Quigley**  
Warners Bay High School  
*Memory Unfolded*  
oil paint, board  
2480 x 1130

**Lorien Saunders**  
Hunter Sports High School  
*The Possible Impact of a Stranger's  
Gesture*  
coloured pencil, paper  
1150 x 760

**Grace Williamson**  
Merewether High School  
*Once you have tasted the sky you will  
forever look up*  
acrylic paint, medium, canvas  
dimensions variable

My work depicts how the  
process of time  
dissolves memories  
and the eerie presence of a life  
that used to occupy these spaces.

NAZ GULMEZ

The images expose themes of  
isolation and loneliness as well as the  
role of technology in  
distant relationships.

LIAM NASH

Nature's veins run through  
the body of the earth  
erasing the damaging and disruptive footprint  
that humanity has left behind.

CASSIDY MOTUM

CURATED BY HELEN WILLIS AND MELODY JONES  
MUSEUM OF ART AND CULTURE, LAKE MACQUARIE  
12 FEBRUARY - 2 MAY 2021