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Year 12 Creative Arts student stages debut exhibition

Seventeen-year-old Alex Beckinsale has achieved the extraordinary – staging her first art exhibition while studying for her South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

Alex has just completed Year 12 at Temple Christian College and credits her debut exhibition to the Creative Arts subject she studied as part of her SACE.

The SACE subject gives students the opportunity for specialised study within and across arts disciplines.

Alex has also studied Visual Arts – Art, Biology and English Studies this year.

By studying Visual Arts and Creative Arts at the same time, Alex was able to build up a significant body of work while also researching how to curate, fund, advertise, promote and run her own exhibition.

Her debut exhibition, held at the Burnside City Council atrium in October, was titled 'Into a Memory' and contained 26 works that reflect both antique and surreal influences through female portraiture.

"I love portraying different feelings and emotions," said Alex. "I've been influenced by the portraiture artists, the pre-Raphaelite period and Art Nouveau, and then contemporary surrealism."

"It's been nerve-wracking, exciting and amazing to see so many pieces of my artwork in a public area.

"I didn't think that I would see this happen for years. I'm so lucky that this has been possible through the flexibility of the SACE Creative Arts subject and through the support and encouragement of my art teacher and parents."

Temple Christian College Art teacher Monique van Eyk said Alex is a success story demonstrating what the SACE can help a student achieve.

"She has used Creative Arts to pursue excellence in an area she is passionate about in preparation for a career in the visual arts," she said. "I can see her becoming a portrait artist of some renown."

Next year Alex is hoping to gain a scholarship to study for a Bachelor of Visual Arts at the Adelaide Central School of Art.