

21 March 2016

Young artists and designers honoured at SACE Art Show awards

Top young artists and designers from across the State were recognised for their innovation and creative flair at the SACE Art Show's award night on Friday (18 March), with a large number of country students enjoying success along with their metropolitan counterparts.

The prestigious Poster Award, sponsored by the Minister for Youth, was presented to Echunga's Rachel Ey for her watercolour 'Cutis and Skinscape' which was inspired by the unique qualities of human skin.

Rachel said: "My paintings are heavily influenced by the work of Japanese contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama, in particular her dot paintings. My paintings are also reminiscent of some contemporary Australian Aboriginal art."

Her work will feature on the poster used to promote the SACE Art Show 2017 to schools and the broader community next year.

Other students from country areas to be honoured at the awards night were Wilmington's Joel Plevin for 'Arkaroola' – a giant landscape painting showcasing the stark beauty of the northern Flinders Ranges; and Loxton's Cie-Ayn Wild for her untitled pencil drawings depicting the impact of urbanisation on African wildlife. Both students won the Regional Encouragement Award.

The inaugural Flinders University Visual Arts Award went to Loxton's Wendy Matson for 'Hanging Plates' inspired by Leslie Greener, an Australian soldier held in Changi, a notorious Japanese prisoner of war camp, during the Second World War.

The complete list of SACE Art Show 2016 category winners are:

- **Poster Award - Sponsored by the Minister for Youth** - Rachel Ey (Echunga) - *Cutis and Skinscape*
- **Regional Encouragement Award (Male) - Sponsored by the Minister for Youth** - Joel Plevin (Wilmington) - *Arkaroola*
- **Regional Encouragement Award (Female) - Sponsored by the Minister for Youth** - Cie-Ayn Wild (Loxton) - *Untitled*
- **UniSA Enterprising Artist Award** - Joshua Love (St Peters) - *Untitled*
- **Flinders University Visual Arts Award** - Wendy Matson (Loxton) - *Hanging Plates*
- **Graphic Arts Supplies Encouragement Award - Digital and New Media** - Connor Braidwood (Tranmere) - *Untitled*
- **Graphic Arts Supplies Encouragement Award - Photography** - Ebony Brown (Port Noarlunga) - *Neo*
- **Graphic Arts Supplies Encouragement Award - Design** - Jenae Fox (Mt Gambier) - *Dia Couture*
- **Eckersley's Encouragement Awards - Art** - William Sexton (Birdwood) - *Untitled*, Sophie Maher (Mount Barker) - *Tension*, Chloe Coates (Tennyson) - *Anxiety*

The remaining major prize - the Community Award, sponsored by Credit Union SA, will be decided in early May and enables show visitors to vote for their favourite piece of art or design work and go in the running for a prize valued at \$500.

SACE Board Chief Executive, Dr Neil McGoran, said thousands of students and members of the public are expected to visit the SACE Art Show during the coming weeks.

“For more than 30 years, the SACE Art Show has featured works from Year 12 students who have gone on to become leaders in the arts and other creative fields in South Australia and around the world. Gauging by this year’s exhibition, this current crop of artists and designers also has bright futures ahead of them,” Dr McGoran said.

“This year’s Show marks an important milestone as it features works created by the fifth group of students to complete Year 12 since the introduction of the ‘updated SACE’ in 2011.

“The improved curriculum has nurtured capabilities around critical thinking, collaboration and innovation which have led to a greater level of creativity, new experiences, and career directions for students. These capabilities are reflected in the high quality of work on display at the SACE Art Show,” he added.

For further information about the SACE Art Show, visit: sace.sa.edu.au/news/events/sace-art-show or follow @saceboard on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).