

Year 11 Visual Arts students further their studies at the National Art School

Visual Arts students, Karina Cheung, Misri Kotecha, Sonia Lee and Anna Liu were selected to participate in the 2022 National Art School HSC Intensive Studio Practice program. The course provides Year 11 students with an opportunity to enrich and extend their study within a choice of seven specialised disciplines: Black and White Darkroom Photography, Ceramics, Digital Photography, Life Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and Sculpture. It was a substantial commitment and ran during the July and September school holidays, culminating in a final exhibition. Congratulations to the girls for their dedication to furthering their artistic practice.

Anna, Karina, Misri and Sonia share their experiences and an insight into the works they created at the program with the School community below.

Ms Sarah Clark

Design and Creative Arts Teacher

Life Drawing - The following section was written by Karina Cheung and Misri Kotecha

Under the guidance of our tutor, we studied the undraped human form throughout the program. In the first week, we were introduced to the basics of life drawing and learnt how to recognise and emulate concepts such as foreshortening, tonal drawing and body planes.

While the majority of our classmates were familiar with drawing the human form, the course escalated our knowledge to a more professional degree. Drawing from life was unlike drawing from a 2D reference. It provided us with a further understanding of drawing the human form.



Misri Kotecha and Karina Cheung



Sketches completed by Karina Cheung

We completed different models throughout the program that enabled us to recognise and depict the forms of various bodies and the connections of limbs to parts, or “finding the flow” in the words of our tutor.

Learning alongside like-minded students expanded our knowledge and led to new friendships and perspectives. We will be able to apply the knowledge we have acquired from this course to several areas of art-making and to our HSC and personal artworks.

Outside lessons, we explored the tertiary campus, toured the student exhibitions and archived works, and went on a journey to local shops and restaurants in Darlinghurst and the surrounding suburbs.

Digital Photography - The following section was written by Sonia Lee

During the digital photography course, we were guided by a practising artist who was open to all my ideas and helped me to find my own “hidden gems”. Before the course, I had mainly been using cameras on auto focus and only taking shots of what I found aesthetic. However, by the end of the course, I could control the camera settings and work with Photoshop. I also gained an understanding of video and media techniques that add depth and meaning to a piece of work.



Sonia Lee's photography

We were able to utilise a fully functioning studio with different coloured backdrops, props and professional lighting systems. I made new friends from all over New South Wales who have a love for photography. Working together and helping to take each other's shots while having conversations in the studio were some of my favourite moments of the course.

Painting - The following section was written by Anna Liu

During the course, I created an artwork that is an appropriation of two separate works painted and written during the mid-19th century. The postures of each subject, layout and stimulus are interpreted from Dante Gabriel Rossetti's 1850 oil painting, *Ecce Ancilla Domini*. The Latin title and its artwork describe Annunciation in the Bible, where Mary accepts the message brought to her by the Angel Gabriel that she would give birth to a child (Jesus) by God. Upon seeing the artwork, I wondered whether two other characters from the same historical timeline could be incorporated into a similar scene.



Anna Liu's painting

Jane Eyre, a novel by the English writer Charlotte Brontë, was published three years before *Ecce Ancilla Domini's* completion in 1847. It is a Bildungsroman following the experiences of its eponymous heroine, Jane Eyre. In the novel, Jane is visited by her half-brother St John during a hailing night, to be informed she has inherited from her deceased uncle a fortune worth 20,000 pounds, which changed her fate and made her an heiress. This book has a strong sense of Christian morality at its core (thereby corresponding to my chosen painting) and approaches topics that are ahead of its time including class, sexuality, religion and feminism. The transgression from white to black clothing, day to night, and cultural to fictional contexts differentiate these two works and yet they have been merged together to become one artwork.