SACE BOARD
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 26 March, 2026

Quilts to Cards: SACE student art explores connections to culture, home and family

A poignant art installation of past wrongs, a traditional quilt connected to culture and a deck of playing cards paying homage to home are among award-winning student artworks currently exhibiting at the 2026 SACE Art Show.

The artworks of 142 students who completed SACE Stage 2 Visual Art and Design from across South Australia last year have been selected for exhibition in Adelaide until April 10.

Among them are nine students representing State Government, Catholic and Independent schools in metropolitan and regional SA awarded by sponsors of the SACE Art Show for their creativity across various art mediums (see full list below).

Using their talents, students painted, crocheted, sewed, designed and sculpted their thoughts and feelings into visual themes most dominated this year by connection to family, culture and home.

“For me, art is the most powerful tool that connects people in ways nothing else,” award recipient Sana Shafiei said. The 18-year-old Adelaide student’s mixed media artwork, a quilt and self-portrait, helped her feel connected to her Persian culture and family.

Port Lincoln student Tesha Kugena crafted her multi-media installation to connect the audience to the Maralinga Tjaritja people in the 1950s and 60s. “I really wanted people to feel the ongoing impact of what the Maralinga nuclear tests did to Aboriginal people,” Tesha said. Her grandfather was living in Oak Valley during testing.

Oliver Tarrant, who designed 52 playing cards featuring people, icons, and animals of Port Lincoln, said his art was about celebrating his hometown’s diverse culture in a fun and enjoyable way. “Art is important – it creates a way for people of all ages, genders and abilities to express themselves,” Oliver said.

Acting SACE Board Chief Executive Hassan Mekawy said the SACE Art Show was one of the longest-running and largest secondary school art shows in the state.

“Celebrated for more than 40 years, the SACE Art Show highlights how art is a powerful education tool to engage students, help them learn meaningfully and amplify their voices on issues that matter to them most,” Mr Mekawy said

Hosted by the SACE Board and TAFE SA, the SACE Art Show is supported by the Minister for Human Services, the Australian Education Union, Eckersley’s Art and Craft, Flinders University, Adelaide Central School of Art and the Independent Education Union.

The Art Show is open to the public until April 10, at the Light Square Gallery (at the Adelaide College of the Arts, 39 Light Square, Adelaide). For more information on the SACE Art Show, including bookings and the online gallery, visit the SACE website www.sace.sa.edu.au/events/art-show.

Media enquiries: Rebecca DiGirolamo 0429 181 422 rebecca@hughespr.com.au

Government of South Australia

2026 SACE Art Show award winners

Minister for Human Services Poster Award: Isobel Reid (Encounter Lutheran College)
"Semi Detached"



Visual Arts Educators SA Packing Room Prize: Marlo Planchon Allen (Marryatville High School)
"Zoo"





Australian Education Union Art Show Award: Keira Holberton (Mark Oliphant College)
"The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy"

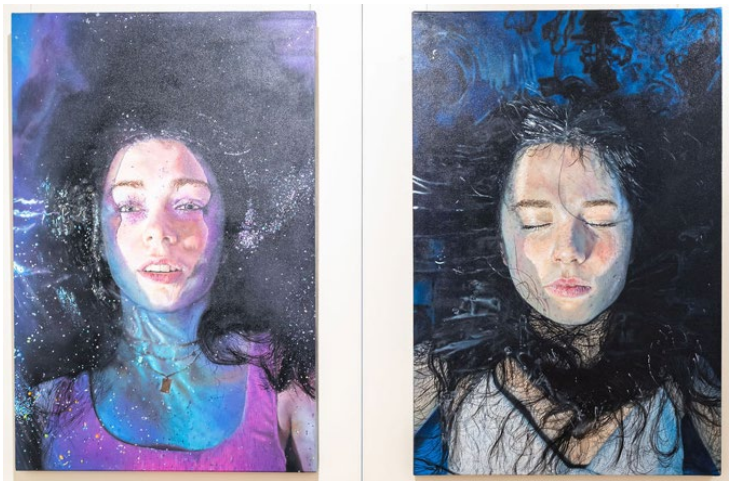


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Eckersley's Art & Craft Encouragement Award: Teresa Kennedy (St Dominic's Priory College)
"Reborn"



Independent Education Union Art Show Award: Alexis (Lexi) Guerra (Sacred Heart College)
"Untitled"

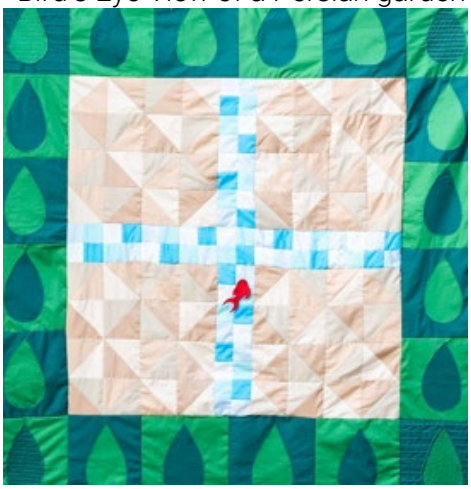


Adelaide Central School of Art Show Award: Tyler Atkinson (Woodcroft College)
"Trapped by Time"



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Flinders University Visual Arts Award: Sana Shafiei (Seymour College)
"The First Stitch of Many" and "Bird's Eye View of a Persian garden"

Minister for Human Services Regional Encouragement Award: Tesha Kugena
(St Joseph's Port Lincoln) "A Time of Silence"



Minister for Human Services Regional Encouragement Award: Oliver Tarrant
(St Joseph's Port Lincoln) "Port Lincoln Playing Card"



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