ARGENTUM
FORWARD

In 2012, we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the life of Overnewton Anglican Community College. Founded with the desire to provide a widely accessible independent school education in the North West of Melbourne, the College has grown from some three hundred students to its current 2260.

With an early focus on Science and Technology, the College supported strongly the Design and Technology and Materials and Technology aspects of the Visual Arts from its earliest days. The first bricks and mortar building in the College was the Visual Arts building at Keilor opened in 1989 with a later, more extensive, extension opening in 1996. The Visual Arts facility on the Taylors Lakes Campus equally was constructed as a strong statement about the importance of the visual arts to student learning in 2006.

With a focus on the life of the family in maximising a child’s potential, our Parents and Friends Association has financially supported an Artist in Residence program on both campuses since 2003. Our students have enjoyed working with world renowned sculptors, painters, fabric makers, and glass blowers to create substantial pieces of work that adorn both of our campuses. The art work produced provides strong statements to the College and wider community about the value of aesthetically beautiful things in creating a sense of wonder, pride and harmony with the landscape and internal physical spaces.

The first student art work bought by the College was Karina Yaremenko’s Serendipity, purchased in 1997. Adorning the walls of the College Board Room at Keilor, every time I look at this work I become lost in the beauty of the piece as well as being drawn back to the connection with Karina and the broader collection of art works and their artists that have been purchased over successive years.

As a College we are indebted not only to Louisa Zhagis for her vision in establishing a student collection but also to the incredible group of Visual Arts teachers who have inspired Overnewton students over twenty five years to explore deep inside themselves to discover a level of creativity many of them did not know they possessed.

Most particularly, I must thank Janinka Eva, Mike Harrison and Kristy Soos for using their creativity to ensure that we could own this catalogue of works that brings the College collection into one place for each of us to cherish, ponder, reflect upon, discuss and enjoy.

Jim Laussen
Principal
Overnewton Anglican Community College
HISTORY OF THE PERMANENT ACQUISITION COLLECTION

Walt Whitman left us with his powerful declaration.

“That you are here – that life exists, and identity,
That the powerful play goes on, and you may contribute a verse.”

It is an honour to be outlining the history of the Permanent Acquisition Collection at Overnewton Anglican Community College. In 1997 Visual Arts staff member Ms Louisa Morelli put forth the idea for a collection of student artworks. It was met with wholehearted enthusiasm by all. Principal Lesley Bell immediately approved and funded the proposal. Throughout the next fifteen years, the relationship between the Visual Arts staff and their students has resulted in a vibrant collection that has made an invaluable contribution to the Overnewton environment.

Each year, both campuses purchase an artwork which is permanently displayed within the College. The work must be produced by a Senior School Visual Arts student and be of an excellent quality. The Taylors Lakes Campus has the additional criterion that it must have a youthful element suitable for a Junior or Middle School audience.

As part of Overnewton’s 25th Anniversary celebrations the Visual Arts Faculty is proudly launching ‘Argentum’ which catalogues the collection. Argentum simply means silver in Latin but there is nothing simple about this body of work. It is a diverse and sophisticated collection consisting of paintings, drawings, collage, photography, sculpture and mixed media. Through their work, some students have addressed themes that encompass aspects of their personal experiences, beliefs and identity. Others have communicated concepts that interpret a vast array of topics that exist in the world around them. The works are held together by a common thread of excellence and sincerity.

The ongoing devotion of the Visual Arts team and the continued support from the Principal Mr Jim Laussen, have provided a beautiful gift of enhancing our college environment. We thank Mrs Zaghis (nee Morelli) for her valuable vision and for enabling so many of our students to have contributed their ‘verse’.

Karen Murphy
Head of Visual Arts Faculty, Taylors Lakes Campus
Overnewton Anglican Community College
CURATORS’ COMMENTS

Before joining the Visual Arts Faculty at Overnewton, I had worked in museums and art galleries managing collections of objects and images. When Principal Jim Laussen approached our department to hold a retrospective exhibition event of our Permanent Visual Arts collection to celebrate the 25th year of the College’s foundation, I was excited and delighted to coordinate the project.

My role was primarily to oversee the exhibition and also a catalogue to accompany the event. However, I also immediately saw a need to establish a database documenting details of the twenty four artists and the works they created.

The project began by contacting the artists to gather information confirming artist statement details and discovering what students were currently doing with their lives. Concurrently, all artworks were being expertly photographed ensuring the availability of high quality images.

A database will be developed with the intention of making the collection more accessible. Fields of documented information and images would now be available to students via the intranet which may be used as research or to enhance learning. A Permanent Collection intranet folder of images providing public access and also publicity for our 25th birthday celebration event has also been launched.

The central event of this year’s project is the exhibition which accompanies this catalogue. For the first time in the College’s history the entire collection will be exhibited as part of the annual Visual Arts department art show held during the College fair weekend in November. Each artist has been invited to join the other twenty three artists to view their place in this significant collection.

Throughout the planning for these projects, an exceptional catalogue design team, made up of Visual Arts teachers Mike Harrison and Kristy Soos, directed the layout design for this catalogue. Their combined professional design expertise allowed them to take raw material and transform it into a beautifully presented, stylish publication honouring the student artists it represents.

My thanks go to all the college staff members who have participated in the Permanent Collection tasks and in particular the Visual Arts department for the support they gave to guarantee the success of this project.

Janinka Eva
25th Anniversary Visual Arts exhibition & Argentum catalogue coordinator
Visual Arts Faculty, Taylors Lakes Campus
Overnewton Anglican Community College
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Karina Yaremenko
‘Serendipity’
Oil on Canvas
KC Collection
When I work with oils, I feel free and expressive... I wanted to create tranquillity, to enhance the dream-like feel of the piece. The paint in the background is applied using flowing, gliding strokes, emphasising the calmness of the water and contrasting the masculine figure.
Rebel Eddy
‘For the Love of Life’
*Pen and Ink on Paper*
KC Collection
The linear forms of nature reflected in the sky, the water and the landscape, radiate a calm and free world to rest and dream in.
Nadia Salajic
‘Four Minutes Past Midnight’
Acrylic Paint and Pastel
KC Collection
The transition from teenager to adulthood... a reflection on identity, self-realisation, sexuality and femininity.
Rebecca Appleton
‘Queen of Heavens’
*Mixed Media*
KC Collection
To honour my Nan, who battled great pain and anguish of cancer, yet it is the youthful and playful spirit I remember.
Anneliese deKiere
‘Self Portrait in Contrasts’
Acrylic Paint on Mixed Media
KC Collection
The West Coast of Victoria is where I spend most of my free time. It is a place of freedom and peace. Whereas, I feel that the city and constructed environment, brings severity and organisation.
I have always enjoyed going to this particular spot in rural Victoria because of the rich colours and organic shapes of the trees in autumn. My main intention was to make the viewer aware of how magnificent the natural environment is and to not take it for granted.
Peace 1: freedom from civil disorder
2: a state of harmony between people

Bao Ngo
'Untitled'
Oil on Canvas, Mixed Media
KC Collection
The paper crane became an international symbol of peace. In this artwork they represent the peace of the world trapped by war. The paper cranes are representing entrapment. We are all trapped in a world where peace seems to be invisible.
Claire Heasman
‘Claire’
Oil on Canvas
KC Collection
I admire how traditional portraiture raises the question for the viewer “What is the life story behind the sitter?” In my self-portrait study I aimed to portray myself in a pondering and quizzical state, totally serene and at peace.
Marie Barbuto
‘Untitled’
Oil on Canvas
KC Collection
For my life drawing images I used soft, curved strokes to create my artwork. I added harsh, straight, bold linear designs on wood to contrast the curvaceous figure drawings.
Daniel Dobrogorsky
'H2 Concept Car'
Ink Jet print
Short listed for 'Top Designs' 2006
KC Collection
Ideas were approached from an engineering and human usage perspective. Understanding new technologies and trends guided design decisions in these areas. The vehicles’ control, usability, ergonomics and styling were designed and directed towards the needs of future users.
Andrew Buttigieg
‘Nike Basketball Shoe Promotion’
*Ink Jet print*
KC Collection
My artwork integrates my passion for basketball and design. The concept was to demonstrate the dynamic nature of sports and adolescence.
Alessandra Meoli
‘Fashion Drawings’
*Ink Jet print of Watercolour Images*
KC Collection
I created a series of fashion designs with an aim to establish my own fashion label concentrating on a style of timeless elegance, femininity and beauty.
Tim Jeffs
‘Constructing Compression’
Ink and Coloured Pencil drawings and Animation
Exhibited in ‘Top Arts’ 2009
KC Collection
My aim was to reveal how the continued expansion of our urban environment, population and technology could create feelings of stress and confinement in a congested, high-speed future.
Tim Jeffs
‘Design development folio’
Pen, Pencil, Markers
KC Collection
I use cartoons and characters as a means of communication and find that a wider audience can be drawn into a topic by this drawing method. Here I have created characters for a computer game in preparation for animation and action.
During visits with my family, I was inspired to produce this piece of artwork showing different views of Sorrento Beach. I marvelled at the landscape, location, beach and relics on the pier and fell in love with the place instantly.
Beth Turner - Summerton
‘Persistent Memories’
Ink on Fabriano Paper
KC Collection
Being able to let go of past events and move on in life is essential. We must learn to cross the divide from the past and begin to focus on the present and the future.
Jessica Pretty
‘Face’
Acrylic on Canvas
TLC Collection
The portrait. A gaze that evokes the viewers response, represented with patterns of tone and monochromatic features.
Penny Hungh
‘Self Portrait With My Best Friend’
*Oil on Canvas*
*TLC Collection*
Two friends, one standing, one seated, using the formal portrait style of the Victorian era. They are positioned in the landscape of the Keilor Valley, the backdrop view from the art rooms at Keilor Campus.
Rebecca Dwyer
‘Seascapes’
Oil on Canvas
TL Collection
I was inspired by the beauty of the Bellarine Peninsula coastline. I couldn’t resist creating a series of seascapes that typically portrayed these regions’ colours and moods.
Kelly Safarawicz
‘Eels’
Acrylic on Canvas
TLC Collection
The flowing style of paint application reveals a great sense of exploration of technique, colour and shape.
Cory Adler
‘Luna Park St Kilda’
Acrylic on Canvas
TLC Collection
This striking image uses simplified graphic shapes and an unusual colour scheme to reference the iconic entrance to Melbourne’s Luna Park. As a child we would all have felt the anticipation and excitement at entering this land of fun and wonder.
Alison Cheney
‘Dark Verses Light’
*Acrylic on Canvas, Paper Collage*
*TLC Collection*
This piece was inspired by a great love of mythical history and literature fused with an interest in the distinction between good and evil, light and dark and myths and legends.
Inspired by the 2008 “Sorry” speech, by the former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, I felt a stronger understanding of Aboriginal culture, art and history. My artworks reflect the nature of the Australian outback and the technique and colours echo the diversity of Aboriginal design.
Marko Sambol
‘SciFi Fantasies’
Acrylic Paint on Computer prints
TLC Collection
The influence for my artwork came from sci-fi artist Gary Tonge and advertising posters placed in futuristic settings. I decided to take popular figures from science fiction media and place them into current day settings.
Rebecca Johnson
‘Portraits of Jessica’
Watercolour and Ink
TLC Collection
The vibrant, creative, fun colours I have displayed in the artworks, not only reflect my personality, but give feelings of happiness and harmony. Capturing the personality of my subject within this artwork was important to me, because I wanted the pieces to have emotion and meaning.
Completed a Bachelor of Education. Currently on family leave from teaching, awaiting the birth of her second child.

Based in Sydney, working as a Graphic Designer and narrator for NTDTV China News. She also works for a natural medicine company in the vitamin and supplement market.

Graduated in 1999 from Overnewton. Recently returned from several years of overseas travel.

After most recently managing PR for Cricket Australia, she has started her own PR business organising publicity for a diverse range of clients.

Completed a Bachelor of Education (Primary). Taught for three years. Since 2010 she has been teaching in London and travelling in Europe.

Completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts going on to complete a Masters of Cultural Materials Conservation in 2010. Now working as a painting conservator.

Working as a designer for a Melbourne based Product Development and Contract manufacturing company, specialising in diagnostic, medical devices and other consumer products.

Currently undertaking a Bachelor of Product Design Engineering at Swinburne University of Technology. Associated with ANCA as a student Mechanical Engineer.

Travelled in Europe then returned home to create her own Graphic Design company, specialising in wedding and industry invitations, logo concept and promotion work.

Completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Followed a career path in Visual Merchandising, currently the State Merchandising Manager at Howards Storage World.

After school developed a jewellery business and online store. Working as a Grade 5/6 teacher at Sunshine Harvester School.

Completed a Bachelor of Product Design Engineering at Swinburne University of Technology. Associated with ANCA as a student Mechanical Engineer.

After completing a Bachelor of Education, she worked in London and travelled in Europe. Currently working as a designer for a Melbourne based company.

Recently returned from several years of overseas travel.

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Currently undertaking a Bachelor of Product Design Engineering at Swinburne University of Technology. Associated with ANCA as a student Mechanical Engineer.

Working as a Legal Assistant in a well-known Legal Firm whilst completing a Legal Administration Certificate course.
Currently studying a Bachelor of Arts (Animation and Interactive Media). Draws cartoons in his spare time.

Studying Environmental Horticulture at Melbourne University with the hope of getting into Landscape Architecture.

Currently studying for a Diploma of Visual Art at RMIT with a focus on developing a career in Fine Art.

Graduated from Overnewton in 2003.

Currently studying Environmental Horticulture at Melbourne University with the hope of getting into Landscape Architecture.

Currently working for the Victoria Police as a Personnel Security Vetting Officer. Hoping to progress into the crime and intelligence side of policing as an analyst.

Currently studying for a Bachelor of Business (Information Systems) at Victoria University. Recently began an internship with IBM.

Currently studying Visual Merchandising at RMIT.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Permanent Acquisition Collection catalogue team would like to thank the following people in particular for assisting in the production of this publication. College Principals Lesley Bell and Jim Laussen for instigating the Permanent Acquisition Collection and the subsequent ongoing support. Keilor Visual Arts teachers Louisa Zaghis (nee Morelli) and Suzana Vlachos for being the keepers of knowledge of past award winning students. Taylors Lakes Visual Arts team for proof reading and design suggestions as the catalogue was being developed. Thanks to Head of Community Development Shirley Seit for the development of the Permanent Collection intranet folder. Shirley Seit and Kim Prestage for providing contact with students through the Old Collegians Association and the College photo database. Old Collegian and photographer Gavin Hansford who produced excellent quality images of the collection. Anna Hrvatin and Joy Whiteside for their valuable insight and knowledge leading to the development of the collection database on the College intranet. Visual Arts technician Michael Dakin for conducting initial student research and collating database entry information. Drew Wroblewski and the his team at Associated Printers. The catalogue design and collation team of Janinka Eva, Mike Harrison and Kristy Soos for their on-going persistence and passion for the project.

And finally the talented students who make up the Overnewton Permanent Art Acquisition Collection.