

# PEACE ART EXHIBITION & AWARD 2005 FOR WA STUDENTS IN YEAR 11

The inaugural Biennial Peace Art Exhibition & Award opened on Monday 24 October 2005 with the presentation of awards by Bernard Kerr, member of the Assessment and Moderation Panel for the Art Course of Studies in WA schools, and Head of Art at Scotch College, Perth.

The prize of \$500 was shared by Natalie Oon, of Methodist Ladies College, for Mantra and Tamara Siallagan, of Mindarie Senior College, for Keep Them Alive, Don't Let Them Die. The schools of the two winning students also shared a prize of \$500.

The picture at right shows (left to right)



Bernard Kerr, who presented the awards, joint winners Natalie Oon and Tamara Siallagan, and Chelinay Gates, one of the two judges. The picture in background is Mantra by Natalie Oon, one of the two winning artworks. Natalie's comments about her textiles mixed media work:

In the construction of my textile piece with the religious theme of Buddhism, I was interested in exploring the notion of peace and peacefulness that is promoted as the basis of its teachings. I was also interested in exploring traditional textile techniques in a contemporary context while demonstrating a link between the past and the present. The ritual and process of making was also very important as the repetitive nature of this piece generates personal reflection within the maker and the viewer.

Natalie's father, who works for Singapore Airlines, is keen to purchase her winning work and display it in the company's head office in Singapore.



In writing about her award-winning collage and acrylic, Keep Them Alive, Don't Let Them Die! (shown at left) Tamara Siallagan said,

Peace is just another word with a non-existent meaning. Everyone wants to believe that we live in a world of peace. However, it is only when you come to the realisation, from the actions held within the world, that you are able to understand 'we do not live in a peaceful world'.

Not everyone has the chance to live their life to its extreme, this is why I have created my poster the way I have. So people in our society can understand why our lives are so important. Thus, maybe they will consider our lives from a different perspective.

Commendations were awarded to five students. Keep Peace Alive by Sarah Deaman of Kalamunda Senior High School was highly

commended (see picture below).

Other commendations were awarded to Kate Bennison and Emma England of Lockridge Senior High School for their untitled posters, and Daniela Da Rui, of Sacred Heart College, for Unity; and Elly Gelle also of Sacred Heart College, for War for Peace.

The award judges were the accomplished Darlington artists, Drewfus and Chelina Gates. At the awards presentation Chelina spoke about the high quality of the works entered in the exhibition, the difficulty they had in choosing the winner, and the qualities of the works they selected for the award.



Artworks were displayed on the mezzanine floor, State Library of Western Australia, Perth Cultural Precinct, Northbridge from Monday 24 October until Saturday 19 November 2005. The State Library's very generous provision of the exhibition space demonstrated its strong commitment to peace. A number of visitors to the exhibition commented on the importance of the venue, which recognised the significance of the young people's work.

Visitors' book comments included:

- Very intelligent views of our talented year 11s
- Very impressive artwork. It's great to see young kids explore the complex issues of society. Well done!
- Focused and easy to interpret Inspiring
- Encouraging to see the many levels of appreciation of peace – how about this wonderful exhibition being made available to specialist art high schools as a travelling exhibition...
- Good to see youth desire for and expression of peace – excellent
- Normally I don't like art ... but this stuff is ...brilliant...
- Most impressed. Great to witness the thinking behind the art
- I found encouragement and hope for the future

The Peace Exhibition featured the images and interpretations of peace by 27 young Western Australian artists in year 11 at five WA schools. The young artists were asked to portray a key message about peace – from global to inner peace – peace in the family, the community or the nation. The images invite viewers to consider ways of promoting peace in their own lives.

The Exhibition and Award was organised by Psychologists for Peace WA (formerly known as Psychologists for the Promotion of World Peace), a group of Australian psychologists who are concerned about the prevalence of war and conflict in our world and are interested in applying their professional skills to promoting peace and preventing war. The prize money for this Award has been provided by a personal bequest made to the organisation. More information about this group, an interest group of the Australian Psychological Society, is available at [www.psychology.org.au/units/interest\\_groups/peace](http://www.psychology.org.au/units/interest_groups/peace)

The next Peace Art Exhibition and Award will be held in 2007. Art teachers interested in the 2007 Exhibition and Award should contact Manita Beskow on (+61) 0419 043 768.

Other promising young artists whose work was exhibited in the 2005 show were:

***Scared Heart College Sorrento***

Alissia Gomez, Utopia  
Janelle Byrne, Untitled, mixed media  
Ellen Dorizzi, Peace Love Unity

***Kalamunda Senior High School***

Terri Alexander, Rise & Fall  
Justine Walsh, Liminal Paranoia  
Charlotte Peel, Vulnerability  
Bonnie Byrne, Peaceful Music  
Julian Hart, Tainted Idealism  
Patricia Dumitro, Objective  
Samantha Wilkins, Let's Have a War So We Can Go and Die!  
Tenille Walsh, Let Peace Fly  
Jamie Donald, Boarder's Freedom  
Jason Windsor, Peace Through Passion

***Mindarie Senior College***

Mark Alderton, I want you for US Army!  
Ashley Arter, What Lies Before Us

***Lockridge Senior High School***

Lynda Patrick, Peace of Mind  
Jade Stephens, Beauty  
Leanne Morley, The Circles of Peace  
Emma Hunter, Helping Hands  
Sam Slade, Bright Change