



MEDIA RELEASE

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BELCONNEN ARTS CENTRE

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COLLEGE EXPRESS

A fabulous exhibition of Year 11 and 12 students' art

Exhibition opening: 6:00pm Friday 15 January 2010

To be opened by Amanda Andlee Poland, Education Manager, National Portrait Gallery

Exhibition continues until Sunday 31 January

Meet the artists: 4:00pm Saturday 30 January

Opening Hours: 10:00am – 6:00pm Tuesday – Sunday

College Express is an independently-curated, fresh and exuberant survey of Year 11 and Year 12 work from three local Belconnen colleges: Hawker, Lake Ginninderra and Radford. The exhibition is a partnership between Belconnen Arts Centre and the education sector and forms part of the community outreach program of the arts centre.

Capturing the vivid perceptions by young artists, this exhibition investigates the world of young people as it is or might be and as they imagine their places within it. Through the lens of a camera, brought to life with a brush or teased out through drawing media, these works offer exciting insights into a changing world at the brink.

Headspace, the well known national exhibition of secondary student work curated by the National Portrait Gallery, has played a large role in stimulating and motivating many of the works shown in Belconnen Arts Centre's *College Express*. Unlike works in the New South Wales Higher School Certificate exhibition, *Art Express*, these works from students of Belconnen's colleges have been produced over a period of one semester. Media represented in the exhibition include two-dimensional works on paper, timber and canvas, as well as dark room and digital photography.

Radford College's contribution to the exhibition consists of drawings and paintings, including still life and landscape work, sometimes on a large scale. Features of this body of work include strong painting and drafting skills, and a virtuosity and maturity of approach which belies the actual age of the artists.

Photography from Lake Ginninderra College focuses on portraiture in real and virtual spaces. Stunning colour, innovative composition and sophisticated moods characterise these works. Music has inspired a number of works in the exhibition and suggests the broader focus of creative arts that nourishes the culture of Lake Ginninderra's student community.

Hawker College students present dark room as well as digital photography. The range of work in the exhibition is informed by approaches as varied as social realism and fantasy. Students have developed their creative skills through a variety of mediums; are encouraged to explain, interpret and imagine the world around them and to explore their own areas of interest.

Visitors will be intrigued and astonished, walking away with renewed respect for the youth of our Belconnen community.

For further information contact: Christine Watson, Program Manager 02 6173 3300

Belconnen Arts Centre is an ACT Government facility
and is supported by the ACT Government

