



Interpretations: **A Reproduced History exhibition introduction**

Welcome to *Interpretations: A reproduced History* - an exhibition of visual interpretations of the domestic and the political, the personal and the historical, the remembered and the projected, all based on objects contained within, or connected to, the Chifley Home and Education Centre.

This exhibition has been created by the Visual Arts curriculum method class of 2020, from the School of Teacher Education at Charles Sturt University, Bathurst. To understand the rewards and the modern demands of teaching in the secondary Visual Arts classroom, students have stepped into the shoes of a Year 12 student for a few months, to develop a smaller scale (given their significant time constraints) HSC Body of Work.

As Distance Education students they have engaged in independent artmaking practice as well as collaborated via a virtual classroom, Edmodo, to share ideas and approaches, to give each other feedback on works-in-progress, to generate responses and to create artworks. Through teaching and learning simultaneously every student has contributed to and helped develop the work of the entire group. This year an especially enthusiastic and dedicated culture emerged amongst the students and, given the quality and calibre of past shows this in real compliment to this thoughtful and engaged group.

The process the students undergo as they develop their works and the online exhibition is called The Project. The Project aims to provide students with an authentic experience of direct relevance to their future work as art teachers.

The Project seeks to illustrate important cross-curriculum possibilities. Our long-standing relationship with the Chifley Home and education centre is to be celebrated and acknowledged.

It is also the role of an art teacher to exhibit student work and to celebrate personal student achievement in public ways. The development of an online exhibition provides students with practical and meaningful experiences. Developing an online exhibition provides insights into how different practitioners approach the body of work and its presentation.

Every student who has exhibited work this year has gone above and beyond the regular experience of a distance education student studying education. The energy, enthusiasm and passion of the students is a testament to the dedication that visual arts educators bring to their craft.

We know that the future of art education is in safe hands when we witness the talent on display in *Interpretations: A Reproduced History*, especially when we consider the works

have been produced as one part, of just one subject in a rigorous course. It would be wonderful for viewers to be able to see all the work that has happened in the background as students developed their works, encouraged one another and created a wonderful culture of learning on the online platform Edmodo where they undertook the majority of their research. The digital diaries the students produced as they research and developed their works are exciting artefacts in their own right and represent many hours of work.

Art allows us to understand our world in a meaningful, complex, and layered way. When we observe just how distinctive each student response to the Chifley Home has been, we come to understand just how different our human experiences can be and how the creative processes we employ take complex and exciting paths. I have particularly enjoyed observing the way that recent world events have subtly influenced the student reactions to the site.

I am sure all the students would agree a special thank you must go to Isabelle Whittle, our amazing student organiser, who gave selflessly of her time to bring the show together and to keep everyone motivated and working harmoniously right up until the finalisation of the show. All the students and I would like to thank Penny Packham, Audience Engagement Officer for Museums Bathurst, who has worked with Isabelle to finalise all aspects of the exhibition on the Museums Bathurst website.

Well done to all the CSU students who gave so much of their time and energy this year, it has been a privilege to be a part of The Project again this year.

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