

4 September 2025

Celebrating student creativity: IEU Art Awards showcase artistic excellence

Artistically talented students impressed the reviewers at last night's (3 September) Independent Education Union – Queensland and Northern Territory (IEU-QNT) *Excellence in Art Design Awards 2025*.

The awards held at the Queensland Multicultural Centre in Brisbane attracted hundreds of entries from students and teachers across the Queensland and Northern Territory non-government education sector, with entrants submitting artwork responding to the theme of 'Friends'.

Student Abhisri Pandya from Brisbane Adventist College Primary Campus in Mt Gravatt was awarded the top honour of the Harriet Hunter Memorial Award, established in memory of a gifted student whose life was tragically taken in the 1999 South-East Queensland floods.

The Harriet Hunter Memorial Award winner is selected from all winning entries across Pre-school to Year 12 and was reviewed by Adrian and Sue Hunter, Harriet's parents.

Adrian said Abhisri's standout piece was humorous in its interpretation of the topic of friendship.

"It implies that friends will always find a way to talk to each other despite physical or technical limitations," Adrian said.

"The compositional arrangement with exaggerated perspective draws our attention.

"It is visually engaging yet has been produced using basic drawing materials and demonstrates that, despite all the sophisticated media and technology available to us today, drawing is still an important means of visual communication," he said.

IEU-QNT Branch Secretary Terry Burke said the Award reviewers were impressed by the high standard of submissions across all age groups in response to the theme.

"The reviewers commented on the quality of entries and the varied and creative interpretations that entrants brought to this year's theme," Mr Burke said.

"Our union established the Awards in 1994 to promote and encourage artistic students and celebrate their flair for creativity.

"Art is a very important area of learning in schools and IEU-QNT is proud to support the artistic talent of students and staff in the Queensland non-government sector.

"We congratulate all awardees for their remarkable achievements," Mr Burke said.

Excellence in Art Design Awards 2025 recipients:

Open: Kizzie Hinze - St Andrew's Lutheran College, Tallebudgera

First Nations: Tahni Thompson – Xavier Catholic College, Wurrumiyanga

Years 11-12: Liana Rial – Cannon Hill Anglican College, Cannon Hill

Years 9-10: Oyun Cherry – Faith Christian School of Distance Education, Underwood

Years 7-8: Hanya (Michelle) Zhao – St John Fisher College, Bracken Ridge

Years 5-6: Karen Chen – St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, Corinda

Years 3-4: Cynthia Shi – Sunshine Coast Grammar School, Forest Glen

Prep-Year 2: Kayden Jayasinghe – Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School, Springfield

Highly Commended Awards for 2025 were presented to:

First Nations:

Audrey Paten – St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe

Years 11-12:

Gabi Dunsford – St Peter's Lutheran College, Indooroopilly

Michaela Chong – St Peter's Lutheran College, Indooroopilly

Years 9-10:

Lily Rosendahl – Darling Downs Adventist College, Toowoomba

Cherish Nguyen – Carinity Education - Southside Campus, Sunnybank

Tilly Owen – Mary Mackillop College, Nundah

Years 7-8:

Darcy Waterson – Riverside Christian College, Maryborough West

Claire Kim – Redeemer Lutheran College – Secondary Campus, Rochedale

Eleanor Haskins – Faith Christian School of Distance Education, Woodridge

Zara Esselmont - Sunshine Coast Grammar School, Forest Glen

Reve Lambe – Redeemer Lutheran College – Secondary Campus, Rochedale

Years 5-6:

Indiana Hooker - St Andrew's Lutheran College, Tallebudgera

Abhisri Pandya – Brisbane Adventist College – Primary Campus, Mt Gravatt

Lizzie Rose – St Catherine's Catholic College – Primary Campus

Aarjun Gautham s– Brisbane Adventist College – Primary Campus, Mt Gravatt

Lucy Byrne – Brisbane Adventist College – Primary Campus, Mt Gravatt

Years 3-4:

Toby Farquharson - St Andrew's Lutheran College, Tallebudgera

Ryan Shi - Sunshine Coast Grammar School, Forest Glen

Emma Wang – St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School, Corinda

Jack Henning – Chinchilla Christian College, Chinchilla

Harliv Anand – Hills College, Jimboomba

Prep-Year 2:

Evie Ryan - St Elizabeth's School, Tarragindi

Aliyah Newman – Chinchilla Christian College, Chinchilla

Jayden Rapaka – Westside Christian College – Primary School, Goodna

Oscar Wisely – Downlands College, Toowoomba

Cooper Townsend – Chinchilla Christian College, Chinchilla

ENDS

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The Independent Education Union – Queensland and Northern Territory (IEU-QNT) represents more than 17,000 teachers, school support staff, principals and early childhood education employees across Queensland and the Northern Territory. www.ieuqnt.org.au