Visual Arts Exhibition
2018-2019
HKDSE & IBDP
“Tell your own story, and you will be interesting.”
– Louise Bourgeois
Message from Principal

I am very pleased once again to welcome you to this year’s Form 6 Visual Arts exhibition.

The name of our school is Creative. Ken Robinson’s brief definition is that creativity is the capacity of producing original ideas that are worthwhile. So yes, we are all born with the potential to be creative. At CSS, students have the opportunity to develop their creative capacity in every subject of the curriculum.

Having said that however, I do think that Art is a particularly intensive learning experience which engages students’ emotions and creativity in a special way. Each member of this cohort of HKDSE as well as IBDP students will have travelled through their very individual journey of creative discovery and personal development, and we will have this opportunity to enjoy their work and engage the students in conversation.

My deepest thanks goes to our dedicated team of Arts teachers led by Mr Finnigan, as well as to parents who have supported their children’s aspirations to study Art.

Mr. Cheung Siu Ming
Principal
Message from Teachers

We’re pleased to present the work of 21 Form 6 Visual Arts students, seven who have taken the HKDSE Visual Arts course and fourteen who have taken IBDP Visual Arts course.

This exhibition is the culmination of two years of hard work, perseverance, and creativity. At the start of both courses each student chose and then pursued a theme of personal relevance. Through experimentation, hours of practising and developing skills and techniques, researching and analyzing the work of other artists and cultures, and a lot of determination each has developed a connected and cohesive body of work. One, where each piece has been influenced by personal and cultural contexts and that expresses their individual thoughts and intentions.

But being an Art Student goes beyond just producing artefacts. These students have also learned how to critically observe the world around them, they have strengthened their abilities to appreciate and create, they have become problem solvers, they have communicated and collaborated, and they have grown, matured and blossomed.

We would like to congratulate them on their efforts and hope that they will continue their creativity far beyond this show.

Mr. Steven Finnigan
Teacher of IBDP Visual Arts
Head of Arts Faculty

Mr. Irene Chan
Teacher of HKDSE Visual Arts
“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.”
– Pablo Picasso
Animal welfare has long been a concern among humans, yet people have taken little to no action to solve the problem. As one of the concerned, I want to remind humanity about the trail of blood they have left alongside all the glorious steps of human development.

Humans are deemed as superior and distance themselves from the rest of the animal kingdom, but the truth is, we are more similar than we realise. We need to stand up for all animals, as they are unable to stand up for themselves.

I have attempted to express the shocking reality through different mediums, from surrealistic paintings to an animated short, to appeal to different audiences. Piece by piece I have laid down the story arc to literally paint a clear picture of what is going on.

“The things we leave unsaid are far more important than the words spoken out-loud to one another.”
– Beth Cavener

"Animal Welfare Awareness Poster"
2018
Graphite pencils and color pencils on cartridge paper
42 x 59.4 cm each, set of 3
“Human Privileges”
2018
Digital hand-drawn animation
1’33”

“Peace and Unity”
2018
Earthenware clay sculpture
38 x 11.5 x 28 cm
“Don’t think about making art, just get it done. Let everyone else decide if it’s good or bad, whether they love it or hate it. While they are deciding, make even more art.”
– Andy Warhol

I find myself fascinated with the female face and body. My collection of work is centred around the topic of a woman’s beauty.

Women are always being judged on their appearances and are forced to meet impossible standards. Nowadays, women endlessly pursue the so-called “perfection”. Therefore my first piece looks into the different desires that women have on their physical appearances. The work focuses on the ideas of “beauty” in contemporary culture, and specifically how women in our culture define and enforce the ideal of beauty on themselves. As I believe beauty is integral to human nature and shows God’s beautiful creation, I then looked into the texture and natural curves of the female body and found how appealing they are and that no matter how hard we try to hide our flaws these are what makes us who we are.

My overall vision in creating these pieces is to touch the heart of the viewers. As Gwyneth Paltrow said, “Beauty is about being comfortable in your own skin”. We, as women, should embrace our differences and accept one another and truly appreciate our inherent beauty.
“Reflected”
2018
Oil on canvas
Dimensions variable, set of 6

“Curves”
2018
Charcoal on paper
59.4 x 84.1 cm each, set of 4
The theme of this series of artworks is the natural process of decay. I have implemented different elements of decay, from the rusting of metal and decomposing of wood, to the rotting and erosion of flesh and bones.

My ideas and concepts have been inspired by many different artists, including Ian Murphy and Yuan Yuan. From them I was inspired to use mixed materials to create realistic textures, particularly texture paste to create rough, decaying realistic textural effects. Two other artists who inspired my second piece were Rick Kirby and Lionel Smit. They both created abstract and expressive portrait paintings and sculptures. After looking at their work I became interested in making a set of face sculptures, as it was a new, refreshing, yet challenging way to express decay in a timeline. Amongst the inspirations for my third piece was the movie ‘I am legend’, and the video game ‘The Last of Us’. They, along with the artist Yuan Yuan, inspired me to create an apocalyptic environment with overgrown vegetation and abandoned buildings.

“The world is still the same, there is just less in it.”
– Johnny Depp

“The Reminiscent Face of Decay”
2018
Mixed media (clay, texture paste, acrylic)
24 x 14 x 11 cm, set of 3
“Lich and Foxton”  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
170 x 80 cm

“Rise of the Muertos”  
2019  
Installation, mixed media (modroc plaster bandages, textural pastes, acrylic paint)  
Dimensions variable
My artworks from the past two years have revolved around the theme of addiction, but specifically towards technology.

Living in Hong Kong has inspired me to pursue this topic as many people around us are always on their devices. When they are by themselves, or even when they are in a group of people, there is always a reason or an excuse to take that device, whatever it may be, out from their pocket.

My first piece focused on one person’s lifestyle and how they couldn’t live without their devices. Then I realised every person uses their gadgets differently, so my next piece moved onto how each generation use their phones - most kids use them for games, teens use them for social media and adults use them for work. I wanted to expand on the idea of a generation gap but also keep the idea of how we can’t live without our devices, so my third piece shows people being absorbed or consumed by their own device.

I hope when people come to examine my art they will have an epiphany “Wow this is how we really live”.

“Creativity takes courage.”
– Henri Matisse

“I NEED MY STUFF!”
2018
Graphite pencils on cartridge paper
42 x 59.4 cm each, set of 3
“Always Connected”
2018
Acrylic on canvas
31.4 x 29.2 cm (top), 25.1 x 31 cm (middle), 30.6 x 30.6 cm (bottom)

“How we live”
2018
Graphite pencils and copic markers on cartridge paper
42 x 59.4 cm
Identity is the way we perceive and express ourselves. Since many aspects of a person’s identity change throughout their life, our experiences can alter how others and ourselves perceived us.

I create artworks to express, explore, and question my identity. My works illustrate how I, as well as others, see myself. I started by looking at the mixed nationalities of my friends and myself, to address the complexities we face regarding our identities. I then used animal symbolism to reveal how others perceive me in my second piece. As a Korean living in Hong Kong for more than 6 years, I recognized that I have changed and it has made me confused about what my real identity is. This confusion became the theme of my third piece. Lastly, I have explored my identity with the languages that I can speak in a mixed media piece. Artists that have inspired me throughout this creative process include Tsang Kin Wah, Kim Hyun Jung and Frida Kahlo.

I want the viewer to understand and know more about who I am, but also at the same time to question themselves about their own identity when viewing my artworks.

“We don’t make mistakes, just happy little accidents.”
– Bob Ross
“Reflection”  
2018  
Chinese ink and color on rice paper  
60 x 84 cm

“Confusion”  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
76 x 101 cm
Since the social status of women has changed in today’s society, I am fascinated by the conflicts women face in terms of traditional and modern values. My works, therefore, centre on women’s issues.

The perceptions of what a woman’s ideal body is have changed constantly across time and women have had to conform to these. Jude Jelfs’ work inspired me to create work that documents these changes. The role of women has also changed as the world has developed and Zhong Biao inspired me to create a piece visualising this progress of change. Nowadays women are empowered and they can stand up for themselves in human rights, social positions and so on. This inspired me to create a series of illustrations, influenced by the work of María Acha-Kutscher, of various famous feminists, to show my appreciation for their hard work on striving for women’s rights.

My artworks are not about criticizing anyone, but are to help myself to understand who I am as a woman.

“Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”
– Thomas Merton
“Our voices”  
2018  
Poster paints and ink on cartridge paper  
42 x 59.4 cm each, set of 5

“Progress with the time”  
2018  
Copic markers on paper  
84.1 x 118.9 cm
Stephanie Shum

b. 2001
Hong Kong, China

The mother-daughter relationship of my mum and myself have always been unstable which makes me wonder what parenthood is. To understand the meaning of parenthood, I decided to explore this as my theme.

By exploring the process of childbirth, from pregnancy to breastfeeding, I realised how much pain my mother has gone through just bringing me into the world. I then looked into the expectations and interactions between us, to figure out the causes of changes in our relationship. I, at last, articulated my personal feelings and thoughts of my mom in the final piece.

From peeling the outer meaning of parenthood to exploring it through inner personal interpretations, I want the viewers to witness parenthood - a process that needs love and means to be loved.

“If I create from the heart, nearly everything works; if from the head, almost nothing.”
– Marc Chagall

“The Hidden Truth”
2018
Acrylic on canvas
60 x 20 cm (left), 28 x 28 cm (baby), 28 x 28 cm (woman), 60 x 20 cm (bottom)
“The Gap Between Us”
2018
Acrylic on canvas
45 x 60 cm

“Narrow The Space”
2018
Acrylic on brown kraft paper
59 x 45.5 cm (top left and bottom right), 29 x 29 cm (bottom left and top right)
“You can look at a picture for a week and never think of it again. You can also look at the picture for a second and think of it all your life. ”
– Joan Miro
As a person that has lived in the city since birth, it seems that I am sometimes being drawn into the loneliness that comes with urban life. Although in the city there are so many people, living in such a small place, we are all disconnected, and reluctant to get to know each other. I started to notice such emotions as I got older and this became the starting point of my artistic journey. I have explored isolation, the feelings of rejection that I sometimes experience in a crowd and the sense of solitude we experience in the city.

Technically, the contrast of light and dark and the emotions it can create has always fascinated me. Influenced by my studies of Caravaggio and his use of concentrated lighting to exaggerate drama, my work explores light and dark (chiaroscuro) to create atmosphere, tell stories and heighten the emotion.
“Loneliness”  
2018  
Digital inkjet print  
127 x 70 cm

“Rejection”  
2018  
Digital inkjet print  
23 x 23 cm each, set of 4
Wendy Cheng

b. 2000
Shanghai, China

My works explore sadness, despair and peoples suffering; emotions that we all feel. I’ve been fascinated with exploring how people show emotion through facial expressions and also how surroundings and the social environment can impact people’s emotional pain.

To achieve this I’ve used techniques such as blurring, cutting, tearing, and layering. I’ve also combined and contrasted images and brush strokes, to heighten the emotional impact of the work and try and show true feelings. In terms of painting I am deeply inspired by Jenny Saville and Kaye Donachie, and in concepts by Francesca Woodman and John Stezaker.

With my work I hope the viewers can understand and feel my emotions.

“If there’s a narrative, I want it in the flesh.”
– Jenny Saville

“I am listening to your dolorous story”
2018
Oil on canvas
76 x 61 cm
“Under the surface”
2018
Oil on canvas
101.5 x 76 cm

“Despair”
2017
Photograph print on paper
35 x 35 cm each, set of 4
The contrast of color, line, space, and the enchanting poses in Egon Schiele’s work have always enlightened me. He expresses emotion through presenting the nude model from unique angles and also by using expressive color, empty space, and subtle brushstroke to exaggerate sensation. This has been my inspiration. During this process, the research I did on Francesca Woodman, Gerhard Richter, and Michael Borreman also influenced my development.

Throughout the course, the ongoing theme that I have investigated is my personal emotions. I cannot explain and express my emotions in language, so I am often working on ways to express myself through art. I hope in these pieces I can share my thoughts, personal experiences and feelings in a way that goes beyond just words.

“Sink”, “Merge”  
2018  
Photography  
Dimensions variable
“Reveal”
2018
Oil on canvas
41 x 100 cm

“Peel it off”
2017
Oil on canvas
61 x 92 cm
Elina Harding

b. 2001
Hong Kong, China

My artwork explores the theme of lost identity. In the beginning, I looked at the way in which society influences how we present ourselves online. I was interested in how females are often insecure with how they look and hide with makeup. This false image is what is then shown to the online world that we currently indulge ourselves in. This led me to create images where the figures use masks or hide in someway, losing their identity.

The connection throughout my body of work, is that the face is unseen or blank. The way I have shown the emotion is through pose and composition rather than facial expression. Influenced by Mark Ryden I have also tried to convey a child-like feeling in my artworks, to highlight the sense of loss and emptiness.

“I find it so much easier to be creatively free at night. Daytime is for sleeping. Nighttime is the best time for making art. The later at night it gets the further into another world you go.”
– Mark Ryden

“Society consequence”
2017
Acrylic on canvas
91.7 x 61 cm
“Perplexed”  
2017  
Mixed media  
21 x 29.7cm

“Sequestered”  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
45 x 60 cm
My theme is the beauty of a woman’s body. My works explore how people blindly follow a beauty standard and how in modern society we are too concerned with our physical appearance. I want to show that confidence and self-worth are more important, and it is these that make a person beautiful.

To show the changing standards of beauty I’ve looked at many ideals of beauty- from different images of the goddess Venus to modern media images. Through studying artist like Sandro Botticelli, John Currin, and Vanessa Beecroft, I’ve seen how the female nude can communicate very different messages. With my work I want my viewers to reflect on their own body and to be able to see the beauty and confidence in all women’s bodies.

“The artist is a receptacle for emotions that come from all over the place: from the sky, from the earth, from a scrap of paper, from a passing shape, from a spider’s web.”
– Pablo Picasso
“Curves”  
2017  
Charcoal on paper and charcoal on tracing paper  
84 x 59 cm

“Venus”  
2017  
Oil on canvas  
60 x 60 cm
Cherry Lau

b. 2001
Hong Kong, China

I destroy, then I reconstruct.

Red-white-blue HK bags into a dress, a fan, flowers, and unclaimed vintage posters into new images.

All my work centres around my cultural identity and my Chinese beliefs. Greatly influenced by Stanley Wong, Ai Weiwei, Jasper Johns and Gaudy Art, I’ve played with the pop ethos and Hong Kong kitsch; taking found images, items, objects and personalising them.

Materialism is engulfing us all. Especially being a youngster, I am easily influenced and allow myself to believe that having designer goods will enhance my long-term wellbeing. I also noticed the countless symbols of wealth and the blessings about being wealthy. These money-oriented beliefs intensify the cupidity culture surrounding me and as much as I recognise the psychological impact, I find it almost impossible to pull myself out.

With that being said, I use my art to express this ongoing struggle.

“An artwork unable to make people feel uncomfortable or to feel different is not one worth creating. This is the difference between the artist and the fool.”
– Ai Weiwei

“Sinners”
2018
Oil and acrylic on canvas
45 x 60 cm each, set of 2
"$120 red-white-blue bag"
2018
Print on paper
16 x 29 cm

"Where's Chloe?"
2018
Digital
Dimensions variable
My work centres on how women perceive themselves.

In today’s society women are made to feel self-conscious and in order to be appreciated, they have to fit into society’s beauty ideals. They are restricted and forced to standardize. In my pieces, I explore how women want to speak out about their problems but society doesn’t give them the chance to express themselves. Women have to hide their true selves under a mask as a defence in order to harmonize with the crowd.

My works have been deeply inspired by Hannah Wilke, Frida Kahlo and Shirin Neshat, artists who have focused on feminist issues in different ways.

“Listen to us”
2018
Soft chalk and colour pencil on paper
64.7 x 109.2 cm
“What’s under?”
2018
Oil on canvas
99.5 x 70 cm

“Cocontradiction”
2018
Screws on a plastic mask, with fake peonies under, and cardboard
40 x 40 x 11 cm
Chloe Tam

b.2001
Hong Kong, China

I am fascinated by the sense of nostalgia and the irreplaceable ecstasy of the pin-up.

At first, I was interested in the exploration of dreams, but I gradually realised that it was working and playing with the conventions of the pin-up that I enjoyed. I like to play with this imagery by challenging the original concepts from the 50s to create contrasts and new statements about the female figure and modern femininity.

A lot of my ideas are derived from collages I created, and then developed into various mediums and forms. I have frequently referred to Gil Elvgren, a well-known pin-up artist, and the paintings of Mel Ramos’s. Other artists that have inspired me have included Linder Sterling and Allen Jones.

“The enemy of art is the absence of (physical/financial) limitations.”
– Orson Welles

“Dirty Girl”
2018
Oil, acrylic, showerhead and hose on canvas
102.5 x 150.5 cm
Jasmine Tang

b. 2000
Hong Kong, China

My work throughout the course has been based on the theme of my emotions. Through brush strokes, poses, colors and even objects, I hoped to express the parts of my emotions that words can’t express.

Artists such as Lucian Freud, Frank Auerbach, and Tracey Emin have inspired and helped me develop a style where I can explore emotion through the poses and elements of the human body.

Though each of my pieces has personal meaning to me, what I want is for the audience to create their own interpretation based on their own emotions and personal experiences.

“The longer you look at an object, the more abstract it becomes, and, ironically, the more real.”
– Lucian Freud

“Stretch”
2018
Acrylic on canvas
160 x 100 cm
“Twist”
2018
Charcoal on paper
84 x 59.5 cm

“Anxiety”
2018
Acrylic on canvas
30 x 40 cm each, set of 4
Kristy Tsang

b. 2000
Hong Kong, China

The central theme that I have explored for my IB Visual Arts course has been the movement of dance. I want to show the beauty and gracefulness of the movement and the lines created by the dancers. To achieve this, I have been influenced by a range of different artists and artworks such as Giacomo Balla, Simon Birch and Hindu sculpture. Each has shown me specific techniques and approaches to capturing dance that I have applied to my own work.

I think my most successful pieces are the more abstract works. Although they are abstract, I think they have allowed me to be more creative and show the sensation of dance. I hope the viewer appreciates the beautyfulness of dance and at the same time have a clear feeling of the movement when they look at my exhibition.

“Creativity takes courage.”  
– Henri Matisse

“The major lines”  
2018  
Spray paint on cardboard  
47 x 40 x 70 cm
“Movement of dance 1”
2018
Oil on canvas
50 x 76 cm

“Movement of dance 2”
2018
Oil on canvas
61 x 92 cm
School life has become mundane and humdrum (particularly towards the end of high school) and this is what my work explores. This is what I've tried to draw.

In my memory school was fun, we played childhood games such as rock paper scissors, tag, and had toys like guns and toy soldiers. These contrasted with the grey high school facilities, such as classrooms, playgrounds and corridors, have become the subject matter of my artworks.

Through various ways of drawing and the use of found objects, I've created a fantasy world showing the corruption of schoolwork and the void of boredom.

I hope the audience will immerse themselves in the artwork and sympathize with the students who are in the process of overcoming this crucial obstacle in their life.

“Whether tales are told by the light of a campfire or by the glow of a screen, the prime decision for the teller has always been what to reveal and what to withhold. Whether in alone or with images, the narrator should be clear about what is to be shown and what is to be hidden.”
– Dave Gibbons

“Daydream”
2017
Ink on paper
58.4 x 58.4 cm
“Rock Paper Scissors”
2018
Ink on paper
56 x 56 cm

“Catch”
2018
Mixed media
30 x 50 x 40 cm
When hearing the word “animal”, we tend to picture a cat, a dog or some other creature. However, humans, who consider themselves “special”, are in fact animal in nature.

As an animal lover, I chose animals as my theme, and at the start of the course, I used animals symbolically to express human emotions and tell human stories. This developed into an exploration of the inseparable bond between animals and mankind, and the hidden animalistic side of humans.

I have learnt from various artists from different cultural backgrounds, such as Franz Marc, Edwin Landseer and Charlotte Caron. They have inspired me not only technically and stylistically, but also conceptually.

I hope viewers can respond to my work by making connections to what they know about human nature and maybe see themselves in these animals.

“The world today doesn’t make sense, so why should I paint pictures that do?”
– Pablo Picasso

“Loyalty”
2018
Oil on canvas
60.9 x 45.7 cm
“Ugly Duckling”  
2018  
Acrylic on canvas  
45 x 45 cm each, set of 4

“Love”  
2017  
Linocut print on paper  
21.2 x 16.7 cm each, set of 3
Candice Yeung

b. 2001
Hong Kong, China

Being a teenager has inspired me to explore different aspects of teenage life through art. In my artworks you catch sight of typical modern teenagers but also teenagers who suffered during their growth process. Although I looked into a range of different artists, the influences of Yoshitomora Nara and Guo Wei are the strongest. They inspired my work thematically and compositionally. My favourite artwork is my piece "A Different Life". The teenagers in this series have gone through terrible experiences, such as teenage pregnancy and losing their family in the war. This series ruptures and plays with people’s expectations or stereotypes of this young age group.

Through my work, I hope my audience can comprehend the different kinds of pain that adolescents are suffering, from educational pressures to the struggle of mental health, and help them by showing support and understanding.

"Art to me is a humanitarian act and I believe that there is a responsibility that art should somehow be able to effect mankind, to make the world a better place."
– Jeff Koons

"Teenage girls"
2017
Mixed media
41.2 x 59.4 cm
“A Different Life”
2018
Digital inkjet print
42 x 59.4 cm each, set of 4

“Drugs Take You To Hell Disguised As Heaven”
2018
Oil on canvas
59.5 x 59.5 cm
Candace Yu

b. 2001
Hong Kong, China

The central theme of my work is the genre of cartoons and manga. At the same time it’s also about expressing different kinds of emotions such as depression, stress and frustration. Through my artworks I would like my audience to understand my personal feelings.

As well as manga in general I’ve looked at artist such as Takashi Murakami and Yoshitomo Nara for inspiration. These artists have raised my awareness of the diversity of the manga art form and helped me express emotions and tell stories. I’ve also been inspired by Roy Lichtenstein’s technique and his way of creating color/tone through dots.

For me, “How Would You React?” is my most successful artwork since it has a strong connection with the artists I looked at but also it brings out a powerful personal message of how I react towards stress.

“I’ve been immersed in manga since I was a kid. I grew up with this culture.”
– Takashi Murakami

“Abstract BGW”
2018
Acrylic on canvas
40.5 x 40.5 cm
“How Would You React?”  
2018  
Acrylic on wood  
Dimensions variable

“Life Is Difficult”  
2018  
Ink on paper  
29.7 x 42 cm each, set of 2
Designed by Ivy Chan

This catalogue was first displayed to the public on the occasion of Creative Secondary School F6 HKDSE & IBDP Visual Arts Exhibition 2018-19. 6th-8th March, 2019.

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“Have no fear of perfection – you’ll never reach it.”
– Salvador Dalí
“In the mind of every artist there is a masterpiece.”
– Kai Greene