

STUDENT TO EXHIBIT AT NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA



Sophie Anstis, the 2015 Damascus College Dux, has recently been invited to exhibit her photographic artwork at the StartUp: Top Arts 2016 Exhibition, located at the National Gallery of Victoria in Federation Square. Her winning artwork titled 'Seven hours difference' captures the contrasting lives of Indonesians and Australians, exploring how culture and nation contribute to individual's self-identity.

The well acclaimed exhibition will run from March 11 through to mid-July, showcasing outstanding work by students who have completed Art or Studio Arts for their VCE, and provides valuable insight into young people's ideas, thinking and creative practices.

Sophie completed the application herself, where she had to complete a lengthy application form. She was then shortlisted in December 2015 and had to deliver her artwork to the VCAA Assessment Centre in Coburg, along with her Unit 3 & 4 folio, so that the assessment process could continue.

On Wednesday, January 20, Sophie received the email advising her of her success and inviting her to be a part of the exhibition. Sophie said that she couldn't believe that she had been selected. "I was so shocked and excited that I broke down and cried when I received the email," she said. "I have gone to this exhibition every year since Year 7 back in 2010, so to be considered to be at exhibition level is unbelievable and a huge honor. I loved visiting the exhibition every year to see how diverse the artwork was that was on display. "I still find it hard to believe that my artwork is now going to be a part of this extraordinary exhibition, and be seen by hundreds of thousands of people."

Sophie's passion for photography began when on a family holiday at age thirteen in Vanuatu, her dad had just purchased a DSLR camera, so Sophie enjoyed capturing the Vanuatu lifestyle through photographing life. Upon her return to Australia she kept taking photographs of everything she could. "I truly love photography and think how great it is to capture exactly what you are seeing," she said.

Sophie always knew she wanted to study Studio Arts in VCE and throughout her VCE she recollects that working on her folio, took so much strain and stress away, as she finds it very relaxing. Sophie also recently received her first university preference, so she will soon be relocating to Melbourne to study a Bachelor of Criminology/Psychology at RMIT.

The Top Arts exhibition presents the work of our freshest and most inspiring young artists and builds on a well-earned reputation for being one of the liveliest and most visited exhibitions on the Gallery calendar.

Further details on the exhibition:

<http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/startup-top-arts-2016/>

Sophie's Artist Statement for artwork titled 'Seven Hours Difference'

"Seven Hours Difference" explores how culture and nation contribute to individual's self-identity. Our nationality and culture are contributing factors to our identity and influence our concept of normality. By contrasting Indonesians and Australians in similar situations but alternate environments illustrates differences I have perceived between the cultures. Indonesia is just 7 hours from Australia (Melbourne) yet the two countries very much have their own distinctive cultures and way of life. We live in separate countries and different continents but are all humans who are experiencing life in unique ways, which is what my artwork aims to portray.



*Sarah Boswell
Leader of School Development – Damascus College*