



EVERY ONE IS DIFFERENT.

ART EXHIBITION
1 TO 26 MAY 2024

Deaf
Children
Australia.

EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT ART EXHIBITION

“I’d like to use a quote from French artist Henri Matisse - **‘Creativity takes courage.’** This year, the entries from our young deaf and hard of hearing artists are truly inspirational.”

Lisa Ratcliffe | Interim CEO
DEAF CHILDREN AUSTRALIA

Deaf Children Australia (DCA) proudly presents our third annual art exhibition ‘Everyone is Different’ at the Library at the Dock Gallery from 1 May to 26 May 2024. The exhibition showcases the exceptional creative talent of 29 deaf and hard of hearing young people aged 8 through to 23 years.

DCA’s annual art competition provides a platform to promote, support and inspire deaf and hard of hearing young people across Australia in their creative pursuits. The intent of our annual art competition is to help deaf and hard of hearing young people to realise their potential and to provide additional pathways to explore their creativity.

Through our exhibition, our intent is to celebrate the work of these young artists and show that the broader community is interested in learning their stories through their art.

The response to our theme ‘Everyone is Different’ has been overwhelmingly positive and young artists have explored what the theme means to them in terms not only of identity and uniqueness, but also interconnectedness. Artworks include portraits, paintings, digital illustrations, a short movie, a graphic novel and more.

We invite you to engage with the artworks and the stories behind them. Enjoy the ‘Everyone is Different’ exhibition!

Follow Deaf Children Australia and tag us:

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#dca_art

ABOUT **DEAF CHILDREN AUSTRALIA**

Deaf Children Australia (DCA) is a not-for-profit organisation committed to helping create a world where children and young people who are deaf and hard of hearing have every opportunity to reach their full potential.

By developing and delivering a range of services, resources, and events, DCA supports the families of deaf and hard of hearing young people and works to allow deaf and hard of hearing young people to have the same opportunities as their hearing peers.

For more information about the work of Deaf Children Australia, visit our website.

deafchildrenaustralia.org.au



THANK YOU

We'd like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Greg Noonan for his special gift in support of our art exhibition in 2024.

Deaf Children Australia's 2024 art exhibition live stream is proudly supported by Braille Tactile Signs (Aust).

We would also like to acknowledge that our artworks are exhibited in a space managed by the City of Melbourne.

THE ARTISTS

CATEGORY 8 TO 11 YEARS

- 1. DEAF ALTOGETHER IN AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD**
Aria Damjancuk, VIC
- 2. CLEVER CASSOWARY**
Charlie Shackcloth, QLD
- 3. DIFFERENT FISH MAKE A SCHOOL**
Deezel Oldham-Smith, NSW
- 4. GLOWING LEMON**
George Ardlie, VIC
- 5. MY COUNTRY, MY FRIENDS**
Hasas Abeygunawardana, VIC
- 6. STARLIGHT**
Jemma Robertson, WA
- 7. DIFFERENT SPECIES**
Jeremy Carr, SA
- 8. FABULOUS FLOWERS**
Kyden Robertson, WA
- 9. DRAGON LOVE**
Oisin Murphy, NSW
- 10. PENCIL BOY 2**
Remi Savic, NSW
- 11. RAINBOW DEAF**
Stefaniia Van Beek, VIC

CATEGORY 12 TO 17 YEARS

- 12. EMBRACING UNIQUENESS**
Alexi Kane, VIC
- 13. DEAF DIVERSITY**
Angus Franks, VIC
- 14. EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT / MY HEADPHONES**
Ava Lily Butler, VIC
- 15. WHEN YOU ARE YOU, YOU CAN LIGHT UP A WHOLE ROOM**
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- 16. SUN OVER WATER**
Emily Wu, VIC
- 17. SPECTRUM OF LOVE**
Erin Vickers, TAS
- 18. THE KATY PERRY CONCERT**
Indi Sommer, VIC
- 19. BUTTERFLIES**
Jeongyeon Choi, VIC
- 20. INDIVIDUALITY**
Kieran Holmes, VIC
- 21. PHASES OF THE MIND**
Niamh Coomber, TAS
- 22. LONG LIVE**
Sinead Coomber, TAS
- 23. WE ARE ONE**
Sion Takahashi, NSW
- 24. EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT**
Tanisha Iyer, VIC

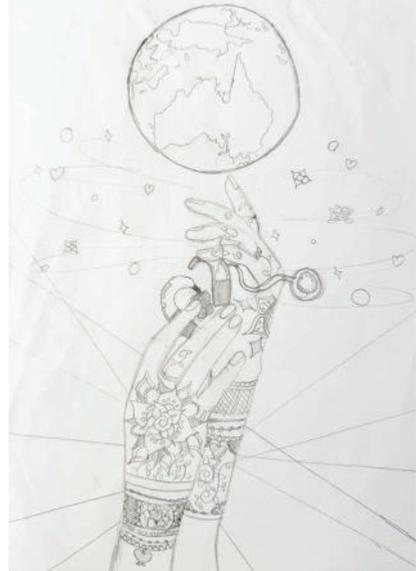
CATEGORY 18 TO 23 YEARS

- 25. EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT**
Diana Hassan, NSW
- 26. UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL**
Hayley Edgar, VIC
- 27. EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT**
Jakob Demirel, VIC
- 28. DIFFERENT BUT SAME**
Jaya Palmer, TAS
- 29. EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT, BUT THE SAME...**
Nicholas Layton, VIC

CATEGORY **8 TO 11 YEARS**

DEAF ALTOGETHER IN AUSTRALIA AND THE WORLD

Aria Damjancuk, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

I wanted to show that deaf people are all different. The hands show that we hold all the deaf.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

In my picture there is a strong connection to the Deaf community. Everyone connects in Australia and the world. It doesn't matter if you have a cochlear implant, hearing aid or you sign. Everyone is different.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

Pencil drawing. I didn't want to make any mistakes. The pencil looks better.

CLEVER CASSOWARY

Charlie Shackcloth, QLD



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

I am Deaf and I hear differently to other people. I hear through my cochlears, watching and I feel vibrations. I don't hear through my ears.

My favourite animal is a cassowary. Did you know that cassowaries hear differently too? They hear through their helmets called their casque. Their helmets feel low vibrating sounds and connect to their ear canals.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

I love drawing cassowaries. I have drawn many different ones. I love their colours and features. I notice how they are similar but everyone is different.

Did you know that cassowary helmets are all different? They come in all different shapes and sizes.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

This is a pencil drawing because I wanted to shade the cassowary to show the different textures on his body.

DIFFERENT FISH MAKE A SCHOOL

Deezel Oldham-Smith, NSW



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

There is no word in Australian First Nations languages for disability. Everyone is accommodated in the group as they play, learn and work together.

I am different. I am Indigenous. I have hearing loss. I have more disabilities than that but love my school and am treated well by everyone. I belong there and get helped there.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

I like going fishing with my pop on his boat. I like the water and swimming. The fish in my painting are all different but swim together as a group. Each different shaped fish I painted a different colour. All the different colours look good together. There is mostly water with a sunset sky. I did this painting with my hearing teacher at school over a few lessons.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

I have done a painting (acrylic on canvas). I like putting on colour quickly. It feels good. For each fish I mixed different colours together to make a new colour – blue, green, purple, pink and sunset colours. I used different size brushes to paint my picture.

GLOWING LEMON

George Ardlie, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

It also means everyone's artwork is different from the others.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

Solo means being an individual and glow in the dark means believe in the dark.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

Painting

Anything else you'd like to add?

Always try something new even your fears.

MY COUNTRY, MY FRIENDS

Hasas Abeygunawardana, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

I drew my friends. Isaac's parents have a Chinese background. He signs so well with me, and he can hear. Richard comes in a wheelchair. I met him at athletics. Aria is a friend from my school. She has blonde hair and wears cool glasses so she can see better. The colourful dancer, Jyotika's parents are from India. The next person represents two mobs who taught me to get rid of my fear in swimming when I was in Jabiru NT.

I am next and I am a Deaf boy who loves sports. We all look different. We all have different likes and dislikes. But we all live in an island called Australia surrounded by sea and we are here to make this country a beautiful home for all of us to live together.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

I used water colour pencils and it allows me to get the smooth water colour finish for my artwork.

I showed the differences in us through my friends. Even though we are different, I represented our country, Australia, that we all live in by drawing Uluru, our iconic red rock formation in the middle of the country.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

A painting because I can add more details into my artwork.

STARLIGHT

Jemma Robertson, WA



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

All the stars are different shapes and colours just like everyone is different.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

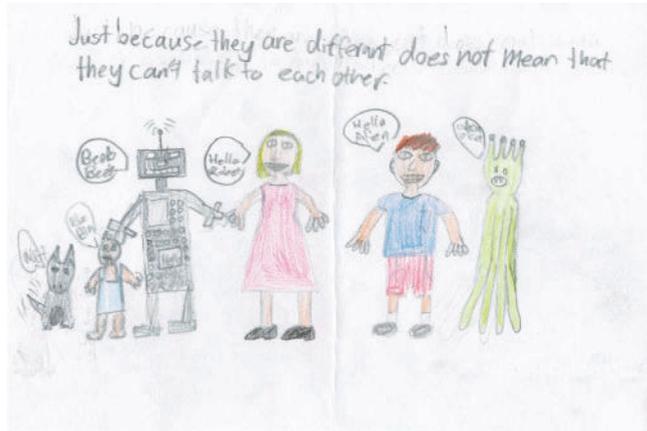
Different shapes, sizes and colours to show how the stars were unique, special and different in their own way.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

I thought that it would be fun to do painting and collage.

DIFFERENT SPECIES

Jeremy Carr, SA



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

My picture shows different species including humans, aliens and robots and how they can communicate with each other through play even though they don't speak the same language. It shows how everyone is different but can still get along and have something in common – playtime!

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

The idea of different species communicating through smiles and friendly actions even though they don't speak the same language.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

Pencil drawing.

FABULOUS FLOWERS

Kyden Robertson, WA



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

The flowers' opposite colours represent how you are fabulous the way you are. The syrup represents the way different people's emotions are when they are bullied. Your identity makes you different and special the way you are!

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

Identity, different people and opposite colours.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

Digital art because I enjoy digital art.

Anything else you'd like to add?

The reason I picked flowers is because they're beautiful and everybody's identity is beautiful and unique.

DRAGON LOVE

Oisín Murphy, NSW



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

It shows us two dragons in love, but they are from the different backgrounds around them. But that's okay.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

Dragons and love. This was inspired by opposites: smoke/rain and water/fire.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

Drawing because it expands imagination, and you can do it with friends.



PENCIL BOY 2

Remi Savic, NSW

Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

In the 2nd Pencil Boy book, Ryan's cousin and his enemy, Sandwicho have an evil plan to make everyone the same. Pencil Boy must stop them with uniqueness! In the story, Ryan explains all the great things about everyone being different and uses his special pencil to bring everyone's unique ideas to life, which saves the day!

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

Some of the themes and ideas in the book are: lessons on how we are all different, superhero adventures, action, humour (especially puns) and creativity.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

Pencil Boy 2 is a graphic novel. I like making books and drawing pictures so this type of book is a good combination of the two.

RAINBOW DEAF

Stefaniia Van Beek, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

My artwork addresses this year's theme of Everyone is Different because the Deaf community has many different levels of hearing. The Deaf community has deaf people, hard of hearing people, and even has people who wear cochlears and/or hearing aids. Even for the people wearing hearing devices, they come in different colours, brands and devices.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

The message behind my artwork is that even though we are all different and at different levels of deafness, we are all equal.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

I chose to paint because my family taught me many different skills with painting, and I enjoyed painting.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I love art because I enjoy seeing different colours being used.

CATEGORY **12 TO 17 YEARS**

EMBRACING UNIQUENESS

Alexi Kane, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

My artwork is expressing that everyone has strengths and weaknesses, that we all have our own battles, but it's ok to be unique and the world would be dull without our uniqueness.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

I have expressed in my art piece my struggles with hearing loss, Autism, ADHD, self-harm and eating disorder, and that despite these struggles, with support and kindness, we can spread our wings and grow. Progress takes time like growing a tree.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

Digital art – it gives me a platform to express myself.

Anything else you'd like to add?

My art is my way at expressing myself. I hope it helps others who are struggling to know it's ok to be yourself.

DEAF DIVERSITY

Angus Franks, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

Everyone is different, literally everyone. But I wanted to celebrate the difference even among deaf friends. My friends all have different types and levels of deafness too. I'm Autistic, have low tone muscle and I'm Deaf.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

The idea is that we are all colourful and different, but we are connected.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

Graphic marker drawing

EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT / MY HEADPHONES

Ava Lily Butler, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

Different eyes, hair. Different looks, lives. Everyone is different, I am different. My headphones are what make me different.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

My headphones give me a break and make me feel calm. I can escape and go into my own world.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

A drawing. I have hearing loss so it can be harder to communicate, and I need a break. My headphones help me to do so.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Thanks for reading!

WHEN YOU ARE YOU, YOU CAN LIGHT UP A WHOLE ROOM

Charlotte Dibb, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

My art represents this because everyone is different and if we weren't all different, life would be boring and dull. So, I think everyone should be themselves and represent their beliefs and interests in doing so; and light up a room when they walk in.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

My theme was that everyone was the same and life was grey/miserable then someone new walks in the room with their head up high and this person is not afraid to be themselves. They are new and exciting (they LIGHT up the room). Everyone who is a bit grey/miserable is surprised but excited because it changes the energy of the room, and everyone just wants to be like that; new and exciting.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

I have submitted a drawing/cartoon because I thought for me that it was a fun way of getting the 'Everyone is Different' message across.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I love art and I love all types of art because it is a fun way of inspiring and getting a message you feel strongly about into the world.

SUN OVER WATER

Emily Wu, VIC

Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

This artwork is a bit of an abstract interpretation of this year's theme. I once saw someone say that even though every sunset is different, nobody would say a sunset is ugly. This connects to how our differences make us unique, and how they should be celebrated. I wanted to represent this idea as this quote really stuck with me – people always say that differences are special, but every day we see people following trends and following the crowd anyways. I hope that every person is able to one day embrace what makes them different and shine like a sunset.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

As mentioned above, the quote about every sunset being beautiful in its own right, was one that resonated with me a lot. We live in a world where many things are embraced and accepted over others. People are often scared of difference and of change, but I think it's a beautiful and natural thing. For example, my deafness can easily be seen as negative. For a long time, I only wished I could be free of it. But I've come to realise that it has its perks – like sleeping through thunderstorms, having quiet

at will, and being able to find true friends who accommodate for my disability. Even though the original quote was about a sunset, I kept the name of this piece ambiguous. It could be a sunrise or sunset, depending on how you look at it. It can be a new beginning or the end of something outdated. Also, as I mention in the next question, I think that this particular medium also reflects the theme. I enjoy working with textiles, but it's not something a lot of people do and it's something that makes me different, which is why I wanted to incorporate it, even though I also enjoy other mediums like drawing. I love how collages bring seemingly random scraps into pieces of art, just like how



society is only complete when people are different, because they bring different skill sets and personalities. Just like how this piece wouldn't be complete without the sun, or the clouds, or the sky. I'd also like to add that I will never stop appreciating nature's beauty. There are a few people who take the effort to look after the planet, and Indigenous people who lived long ago had a mutual relationship with the land that I wish more people would try to foster today. It is hard to live in harmony with the earth in a modern society, and it is a vastly different lifestyle, but I greatly respect people who can achieve such a thing.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

I have submitted a textile collage, which is made up of different fabric scraps all sewn together onto a sheet of canvas fabric. I thought that since textiles are not a common medium, it would further reflect the idea of difference in this year's theme. Additionally, collages represent many different things coming together to form a cohesive artwork – and in real life, we must have difference for our communities to thrive.

SPECTRUM OF LOVE

Erin Vickers, TAS



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

I did this artwork because I feel like there is too much unnecessary homophobia. So, I decided to draw this for the theme to show its okay not to be the same sexuality.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

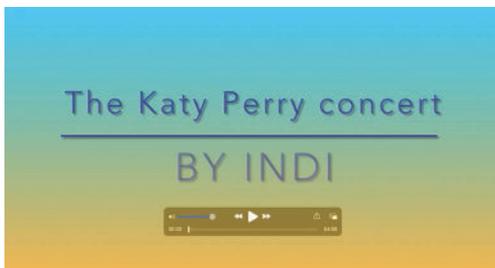
The theme behind this artwork is about a couple putting makeup on each other.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

Digital art on my phone.

THE KATY PERRY CONCERT

Indi Sommer, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

A group of characters with different needs go to a concert and they all have a fun time because of the changes made by the manager.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

“Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance; equity is being a part of the party planning committee.”

- Verna Myers

My movie idea came from thinking about this quote. At my school I am lucky that the teachers have planned things like sound field systems and Roger FMs, and I get special lessons to help me in case I didn't hear instructions in class. This means I can learn well. If I was just allowed to be in a school but none of those changes happened, I wouldn't feel included, and I would find it hard to hear and learn like my friends. If people planned events by considering everyone's different needs, more people would enjoy

themselves at events and not feel left out. It takes effort and planning because everyone is different and has different needs but it's possible to do and then everyone can have fun at big events like a Katy Perry concert.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

Video because I like to make videos. It's a good way to tell a story.



BUTTERFLIES

Jeongyeon Choi, VIC

Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

My artwork addresses this year's theme as butterflies. They are the symbol of deafness. Deafness connects everyone together, although we are all different in many ways. Butterflies also come in different shapes, sizes and colours. The first thing that came to my mind with this theme was butterflies, how they are the symbol of deafness and how they make us so different.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

I explored the ideas of the Deaf community and their connection with butterflies. Deafness proudly defines who we are and doesn't change anything about ourselves. The rest of the world communicates with their voice, and we also communicate with sign language. Our own language makes us different from other people.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

I made a digital artwork because I always draw digital art.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I learnt about butterflies when I was younger, and I understood why they were so important to us.

INDIVIDUALITY

Kieran Holmes, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

My artwork addresses the theme 'Everyone is Different' by presenting various people in different places to showcase that no single one of them is the same. Even though these photos were taken capturing similar environments, it shows that we are all different from one another. The differences that are highlighted in my photography help to create a diverse collage to showcase everyone being different.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

My artwork explored the

theme 'Everyone is Different' by how I used different filters and zoom to change how each photo is perceived and to highlight the differences from person to person. The idea was to show that people, even with the similarity of being human, are very different in how they dress, look, act, and what they do, and that it's a good thing everyone is different. If we were all the same in thoughts and acts, life would get boring very fast. Celebrating diversity is how we can ensure that everyone is different AND included.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

I have submitted a collage of my photography because I find it enjoyable searching for the

beauty in every moment, and love being able to capture a story in a single frame. It also allows for the audience to perceive the image in their own unique way and brings out the best in what life has to offer.

Anything else you'd like to add?

The reason behind the photos is to show that even though everyone is different in their own way, we are all commonly bonded in one way; being human. To show this, I wanted to capture different people in different environments to really show the difference in lifestyles and people but how similar they can be when we remember that we're all human.

PHASES OF THE MIND

Niamh Coomber, TAS



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

My painting represents the theme "Everyone is Different" because it is not just everyone is different as in looks but also in the mind. Everyone is different in the mind because we have all experienced different things and express our feelings differently. For example, some people express their anger by being loud, while others might keep extremely quiet with everyone.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

I had the idea about 'Phases of the Mind' while looking at past entries with faces and expressions on them. I had the idea for a four-square layout while looking at the Marilyn Monroe diptych painting. Then I thought why draw things that are physically different when you can draw what is mentally different? So, I started drawing and painting the 4 emotions, 'Ashamed, Depressed, Loneliness', 'Awe, Calm, Peace', 'Connected, Joy', and 'Energetic.' I started to think what situations and feelings and expressions people might be feeling at that time. 'Phases of the Mind' was made.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

I submitted a painting because that's what makes me feel the most creative.

LONG LIVE

Sinead Coomber, TAS



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

I think my artwork 'Long Live' addresses this year's theme because the painting explores my friendships throughout the years, with the big flowers being my closest friends. I made the flowers colourful because even though my twin and I are very different, our friends still accept us. The swirls in the sky are the mean girls, supposedly normal and perfect. But as long as we stay together, we can achieve the impossible.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

Well, this painting is based on Taylor Swift's song 'Long Live' which comes from my favourite album of hers, 'Speak Now'. Taylor was also bullied in school, but now she is the most loved, kind and healing person in the world. She wrote the entire 'Speak Now' album by herself. But my favourite song is 'Long Live', which shows even though we're different, our friendships keep us close, even when people are mean about our differences.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

I have submitted a painting because I love how every stroke of paint I paint onto the canvas is unique, different. I like how you can mix a bunch of colours to make a new beautiful colour. Most of all I like that even though each stroke is different, they all come together – like family.



WE ARE ONE

Sion Takahashi, NSW

Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

This artwork addresses people are all different and live in different countries, but we are all connected on this mother earth.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

My artwork explores about we are all different, but we share the same soul.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

My artwork is a painting because I enjoy expressing my images through drawings and paintings.

Anything else you'd like to add?

We are one, we share the same soul.

EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT

Tanisha Iyer, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

My artwork relates to this year's theme everyone is different by referring to different disabilities and conditions. It's what makes everyone unique.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

My idea was to explore different skin conditions or disabilities and realising why it makes everyone unique to each other. Everyone is beautiful.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

Sketch/drawing. I think I feel like I am in my own world immediately when I start drawing. I felt that I needed to continue what I loved doing best and what I do at other competitions (competed in DCA art competition in 2021 and won 8-11 years category).

CATEGORY **18 TO 23 YEARS**

UNIQUELY BEAUTIFUL

Hayley Edgar, VIC

Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

I've made a collage of close-up photographs I've taken of myself, friends and family. The close-up images are of details that demonstrate some of the things that make humans different from each other. There are many different reasons that we are different, most of them are things out of our control. This consists of things such as eye colour, mouth shapes, noses, skin textures etc. the common theme I'm exploring is that we are born different, with little control over these things but that doesn't make us less; less beautiful, less important or less worthy. Everyone deserves to belong and feel welcome regardless.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

Different not less – this is a quote from an actor I admire, Chloe Hayden and I used this as inspiration for my art.

The idea that difference does not mean less is a really powerful message that I hope comes across in my work through the individual photos being beautiful both alone and as a whole. Each photograph highlights a difference from a birthmark to the sunflower lanyard to illustrate that differences don't make a person less.

Photos are connected – I felt it was really important to us to have most images connected to demonstrate how the differences don't isolate us but rather connects us. The mood board style means that each individual photo is unique on its own and as a whole. It also aims to point out that a person's identity and appearance is made up of a variety of things and to not just to focus on one aspect. Some images are separate to help emphasise them.

Hand drawn butterfly flags - butterflies hold a lot of symbolism, with a variety of meanings. They are something that is beautiful, just like everyone's differences.

The flags represent just some of the different identities and cultural backgrounds a person can have. This illustrates how individual people are whilst also emphasising the idea that difference is inherent and a part of life. It also highlights the idea of belonging to a group.

Variety of editing styles – using colour photos, black and white photos as well as black and white with one solid colour illustrates how in photography there's a variety of styles which are each beautiful. Everyone has different styles and preferences, yet all are wonderful.

Variety in printing sizing – different sized photos help create variety in the images as well as illustrating that like the photos, people come in different sizes and shapes.

Subjects – the largest and central images are of things that make me. I felt it was important to illustrate what makes me unique (which is a lot). I then asked my friends and family to help tell my narrative (I am very grateful for their assistance).



What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

I have submitted a visual art piece. As I'm commencing a Bachelor of Photography at PSC this year, I wanted to use my photography skills. I wanted to experiment with using multiple images and adding dimensions. Hence, I went with a mood board/collage inspired piece which showcases photography with mixed media. I was conscious of how an audience would view this piece as I want it to be really impactful. So, I hope due to its complexity, people will spend a long time taking it in and admiring all aspects. I also really wanted to create a 3D effect which is why the butterfly wings are sticking up and the central photo is raised.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I have a passion for using my photography to instil a message, usually of empowerment. I have a strong passion for changing the current representation within the media. Specifically surrounding things like hearing aids and cochlear implants. Since being diagnosed with POTS I have expanded this to include other assistive devices like wheelchairs and crutches. Within the media these devices are portrayed as medical tools that are usually boring colours like grey or made to 'blend in'. They also tend to be catered towards the elderly which makes people reluctant to use them, even the target audience. People tend to have shame and even embarrassment

towards needing to use devices/mobility aids like a cane. However, these are an important part in giving individuals independence and should be viewed as an accessory to them, not a burden. Kind of like how glasses are widely accepted and even seen as a fashion statement (though there is still the harmful stereotypes in movies that once people change to contacts, they're 'beautiful' i.e. 'Princess Diaries'). I hope that someday all devices and tools to assist people will not only be accepted in society but also come in a range of colours. This is why I chose to really highlight the devices in bright colours with black and white contrast.



EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT

Jakob Demirel, VIC

Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

My artwork depicts differences in people (be it age, culture, ability, sex etc) to be inclusive and highlight that all of us are different.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

I Googled different people, of different ages, different abilities, different cultures and different sexes. I then chose the pictures that I wanted to depict in my artwork.

What type of art have you submitted and why?

I have submitted an oil pastel artwork/drawing.

DIFFERENT BUT SAME

Jaya Palmer, TAS



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

"In diversity there is beauty and there is strength".

One of my differences is my deafness, but it's not my only difference. The other differences I have are my Indian heritage, my Australian family, my gender, my age, the way I look, the interests I have, my likes and dislikes, my personality, my abilities and my experiences.

Everyone is different but we are also the same in many ways.

When I am with other deaf people, we are the same even though we have differences.

Some deaf people sign, some talk, some are bilingual, some wear hearing aids or cochlears or both.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

My artwork shows that I am deaf and wear a cochlear. It does not show that I also wear a hearing aid, I can sign, my abilities, my culture, my religion and all my interests. That's why I decided to write words around myself to show there is more to me than just being deaf. The words also highlight how we are different and also the ways we are same. Many of our differences can't be seen but there is beauty and strength in both our differences and similarities.

What type of artwork have you submitted and why?

I am submitting a digital artwork. I like doing digital artwork because I can erase any little errors that have occurred without having to do the whole artwork again. I can also experience doing other things like different colours and decide whether I like it or not.

EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT, BUT THE SAME...

Nicholas Layton, VIC



Tell us how your artwork addresses this year's theme Everyone is Different:

Everyone is different... but we're all still the same. Sport unites all backgrounds, cultures and abilities.

In my swimming career, I have come across many diverse athletes from around the world. We are all united by our love of the sport and our desire to perform to the best of our ability.

Tell us about the ideas or themes your artwork explored with the theme Everyone is Different:

The distinctive colours depict 4 diverse athletes from around the world and each colour belongs to the athlete's national flag.

Their meanings are as follows:

Italy – the GREEN that represents the beautiful landscape, social equality and freedom.

Japan – the RED circle of the sun.

Ukraine – the YELLOW depicts the golden wheat fields.

Australia – the BLUE sky where the stars of Southern Cross are visible.

Together, they create a new meaning. It ties together strong elements: sign language, deaf and international cultures, unity and continuity. The hand shapes on the colourful symbol, "ok", "good", and "great" that overlap each other in a circle. Together, the hand shapes represent the sign for "united".

What type of art have you submitted and why?

I have submitted a graphite + watercolour on white A2 paper. I wanted to try a different medium for this art exhibition, previously I used white charcoal on black paper. With the water colours it was very easy to add distinctive colour and make it visually appealing. Other reason is that drawing has always been my favoured (art making) method.

ART EXHIBITION
1 TO 26 MAY 2024

EVERY
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DIFFERENT.

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