

## **Celebrating Young Artists 2013 transcript**

Celebrating Young Artists Exhibition here at the Void Community Gallery. We're surrounded by some of the most innovative and contemporary pieces of art produced by some of our CCEA A Level Art & Design candidates, let's go talk to some of the student exhibitors!

Gareth tell me a little more about the piece you have on show here tonight?

Well this is a self-portrait and it was based around the idea that photography is a snapshot measurement of time and so I tried to capture myself in a snapshot.

And what are you up to now Gareth?

I am currently in my last year of A Levels and I'm hoping to go onto Art College after this.

Engela tell me what the name of your piece is and the concept behind it?

Well the name is 'Sharp Edges' and it's basically a combined concept it's idea of living of the edge so why it is sharp edges and why box shape also in the base that's reflected and my whole topic area was 'What have we got to lose!' So that's reflected in that I've tried to bring in depression and also alcoholism and so that's what we have out mental health studies and also the middle one here, were it says open to manipulation that's to do with social conditioning and the media and we kind of lose our own way of thinking.

Willie as our guest artist tonight you officially opened the exhibition, what have you made of the student artwork on show?

I think it's great, there's such a variety of work here in all kinds of media. I think the standard is really high and it's very innovative so I've been really surprised and really kind of gladdened to see the range of work and the skills that are on show here so it's a fantastic show!

And as a celebrated contemporary artist yourself, what advice would you give to budding artists out there?

Well I'm not sure that many these need a lot advice, I mean they seem to be managing okay as it is but really I would just advise people to keep at it I mean really it's a privilege and a pleasure to be involved in working with Art & Design and to try and see as exhibitions as you can you know because I think the more influence you can bring to the work the more contemporary artists you can see as well as historical work it really helps to reinforce and support your own practice so I would advise any young student to see as much as you can and take it all on board.

Here I am with Ellen Woods of Dromore High School Ellen tell me about your fantastic installation piece?

My piece is based on old farmer buildings and I kind of wanted to bring across the thought of what actually was there before and the buildings that I looked at were very derelict, they'd fallen down and I wanted to think about what was there beforehand so that old

farmer and the wife and the heart that was still behind all the buildings so this is where my piece come and the bodice.

Very good and now that you're in your final year of school, how are you finding Art & Design this year?

It's really good, I'm really enjoying it, I'm now looking at birds of prey because the colours that I used last year and I really want to come across and use those again through ceramics as well.

Natasha congratulations on having your work on show at the exhibition, tell me what are the artists that really inspire you?

For this piece here I looked at Becky Millar she's an American artist and I looked at the way she painted seaweed and the different compositions she used in painting seaweed. The different colours and how she painted it.

Now Anne as Education Manager for Art & Design at CCEA why do you think it is important to run an exhibition like this?

Well Art & Design is a subject that needs to be seen you can't do work and then not show it so that's the main reason it's different from other subjects in that it's for an audience so you have to exhibit the students work.

The other side to this exhibition is that we're trying to showcase students who've done something a little bit more adventurous than the norm, we try to find students who've taken some risks in their work, used new media or been influenced by contemporary artists.

And why do think Art & Design is such an important part of the curriculum here?

I think that Art & Design is one of the ways in which we really explore creativity and it's one of the ways in which we develop skills of divergent thinking, innovation, finding solutions to problems so I think those skills are really, really important in any curriculum and perhaps can be explored best you know through Art & Design where there's self-motivation and where the artist is expected to find their own material etc.

Now Declan tell me about this very interesting installation piece you have here, it's a bath I take it?

I hope so that's what I was trying to portray anyway but I'm really proud of it and I've loved this exhibition and I want to thank everyone first of all who helped with it anyway especially my Art teacher Miss Hughes but the whole point of it was I was trying to show the whole off the wall idea and the fact that it was so you know unique to me anyway and I wanted to show the idea of submersion and that's why I used the different layers and did the textiles that I used and yeah I'm really proud of it.

That sounds fantastic and what are going to do when you leave school Declan?

Well I've always loved Art I've done it for seven like ten years of my life really so I want to continue on maybe in Fine Art and do foundation year like at the Art College maybe in

Belfast or anything to do with Fine Art I would love I love doing the work, I love seeing the pieces from start to finish and then seeing the finished product is fantastic!

We it's clear to see that Celebrating Young Artists' launch event has been a great success! The Void Community Gallery has been packed with guests and student exhibitors.

We hope you come down and visit the exhibition which is open until the 29 November here in the City of Culture and it's free and open to the public so there's no reason not to come along and be inspired by the wonderful contemporary art on show until the next time, bye for now!