



Collaborative Press
Chatswood High & MacKellar Girls
12 Oct – 31 Oct 2020

Collaborative Press is an open school printmaking program designed to encourage students to engage in the exciting and dynamic world of printmaking. Creating artworks through a collaborative process for exhibition is the central aim of Collaborative Press. Collaborative Press seeks to expose high school Visual Arts students to the role of the practicing artist within the discipline of printmaking.

In doing so, students identify sites to observe, interact and respond by translating their sensory experience through a range of artmaking processes and collaborative approaches. In addition to the making of artwork for public exhibitions beyond the school setting, students learn about curatorial practice, promotion and publication. All artists will identify and respond to selected sites as well as explore the notion of collaboration. Artworks will comprise three key areas: Print Exchange, Cross-School Collaboration and in-school collaboration.

Curators: Mitchell Kelly and Katie Vanderbent



Print Exchange

Works 1 - 25 comprise the Print Exchange component of the Collaborative Press exhibition, representing students across Years 7 - 12.

Participants were not restricted in either subject matter or technique, rather given the task of producing a plate/block that could be editioned and with the uniform paper size of 28 x 38 cm.

Technically, the demands require a certain level of proficiency given that students must demonstrate accomplishment in their chosen printmaking technique but also precision in their capacity to duplicate 25 identical prints from the one plate.

The 25 printmakers in the 'Collaborative Press' Print Exchange will gift each of the other participants one work from their edition. This has the benefit of sharing knowledge of new and perhaps unfamiliar print processes and igniting a desire to explore new artmaking approaches.



Inter-school Collaboration

Work 26 is a custom collaboration between students from the two participating schools and across 3 year groups. It draws inspiration from the processes of other print collaborators, notably Peter Sharp and Brenda Tye, and Gary Shinfield and Geraldine Berkemeier.

As the title suggests, the work is generated by the processes of Automatism, a Surrealist convention using the element of chance to create works. The prints were completed in layers, passed between different groups at the two schools, with each group generating new imagery based on the intuitive sensory response to those created before.

The result is a multi plate-multi process print, where each work exists in an original and unique state due to the infinite possibilities of configuring each of the blocks, stencils or found objects.

Collaborative Practice

Works 27 - 43 explore a range of modes of working collaboratively. These include:

- Intra-school collaborations, with students working across class groupings to create multi plate-multi process works eg Year 10 'Responding to Nature' and 'Observing Nature', Year 9 'Manly Dam' and Year 8 'Waste not, want not';
- Intra-school collaborations, with students working across class groupings to create individual works in response to a common theme eg Year 7 'Drawing Machines' and Year 8 'Blue Gum Walk';
- Joiner images, such as the 'Chatswood' panorama created by students from years 7 - 10, and the paired landscapes in 'Nature Reserve I-III';
- Collaborations with visiting artists, such as the Year 8 monoprints produced after a workshop with artist Melinda Hunt;
- A custom printing model where blocks produced by one group of students are printed by another, such as the 'Collographs after John Winch' and 'Cockatoo Island' studies.