



## **Pānui pāpāho | Media release**

14 November 2024

### **NMIT Arts and Media exhibition: Latest talents showcase diverse themes**

The annual NMIT Bachelor of Arts and Media (BAM) Exhibition highlights the talents of graduating arts and media students, providing a public platform to view the results of their hard work and artistic growth.

NMIT tutor Mark Baskett says the exhibition allows the public to see firsthand the level of creativity and innovation emerging from NMIT's visual arts and design course.

"It provides a platform and a showcase for the students' work, upon completion of their three-year degree. The community is able to come in and take a look at what is occurring within the NMIT programme," he says.

For the students, presenting their work publicly is an essential part of the learning process.

"Preparing an exhibition is an important part of the students' learning. A public-facing exhibition gives students the experience of showing their creative visual work to a broader viewing public."

As for the themes in this year's exhibition, the students have produced a diverse range of work.

"There are a number of diverse themes in the course work produced for this year. The course encourages students to work independently, developing projects based on their own interests and ideas," says Mark.

The exhibition also benefits from input from local arts professionals. Julie Catchpole and Kyla McKenzie from The Suter Art Gallery Te Aratoi o Whakatū met with the students in September to provide curatorial advice.

"We greatly appreciate their input. Their advice is genuinely helpful, and perhaps more importantly, it means a lot to the students to have arts professionals from the local community take the time to come and look at their degree-level work."



The BAM2024 awards will be announced at the exhibition opening event:

- Nelson Suter Art Society Award
- Jens Hansen Gold and Silversmith Excellence Award
- Impressions Distinction Award

**Event:** BAM2024

**Venue:** G201 Studio, G Block, NMIT

**When:** Saturday 23 November to Saturday 7th December, 10am – 4pm. Closed Sundays.

**Exhibition opening:** Friday 22 November 5.30 – 7.30pm, G block, NMIT, 322 Hardy Street, Nelson

<https://bamgradshow.nz/>

## Exhibition artist statements

**Sonja Walker:** Little Things

The pleasures of sight can take you by surprise. They have stopped me in my tracks. Brief interludes that break the pressures of daily life. I am called to stop, observe, reflect on my surroundings, and appreciate that fleeting moment. The typically overlooked mundane spaces hold a certain appeal. Specifically, those spaces where the shadows linger. There is a magic in those shadows. They cultivate an appreciation for the little things and offer a sense of calm. This work is a chance to share in the stillness offered in these 'Little Things.' In this body of work, I am searching - in a period of change - it is a battle. Torn between realism and abstraction, the known and the unknown. Hanging onto realism as my safety blanket, yet searching for abstraction, all the while, trying to evoke calm.

**Beatriz Gulden:** Bee's Present



Bee's Present is a series of colourful monochromatic oil paintings that delves into the complex emotions of absence, both personal and through the eyes of the collective. By connecting colours and the use of archetypal characters, the collection brings to life the subtle, often unspoken feelings that accompany loss, longing, and emotional distance. Each piece blends specific memories with symbolic colour choices, allowing the viewer to connect with the emotions conveyed on a deeper level. The use of colour in Bee's Present plays a crucial role in my exploration. In many ways, my works are a visual reminder of the emotional complexities that arise from the presence of absence.

**Siya Chen:** Rejecting Appearance Anxiety

My work, Rejecting Appearance Anxiety, critically explores the social and cultural roots of appearance anxiety in a society dominated by strict aesthetic standards. Through a fusion of photography, collage and mixed media, I challenge the idealised images shaped by social media, advertising and contemporary culture. This series aims to break down monolithic aesthetic norms and offer a more inclusive view of appearance. My work invites the viewer to consider why we can appreciate the imperfections of natural landscapes but are often critical of the flaws of human appearance. I aim to inspire a shift in self-acceptance, encouraging viewers to redefine the concept of beauty beyond the socially constructed framework of expectations.

**Mikelti Holland:** Starstruck

Comic books envelope you in a world of imagination and creativity. Your mind can run free, until you are forced to face reality once more. Typically, in society, people believe that comic books are for children, and you might think mine is too. However, the media I put inside is serious and hard-hitting, not catered towards gentle souls. This entraps you into the story's plot, holding you down until the comic ends.

In this comic book, I am displaying how a childish art style can still reflect deep and dark topics. Luring readers in with the bright watercolour strokes on the paper, delving them into a new reality. One of heartbreak, abandonment and trauma.



**Leanna Watkins:** Kaleidoscopic

Kaleidoscopic offers a visual and psychological journey that explores the origins of joy - whether in creation or shared experience - and how color, shape and form can ignite our imagination. This installation highlights the dynamic interplay of vibrant colors, contrasted by a variety of mediums, shapes and hues. The interior sculpture uses a combination of three-dimensional objects and two-dimensional elements to create a joyful, interactive visual experience.

**Lacey Rangi:** Amendments

Amendments began with the gathering of overlooked, organic remnants from the ground, from corners, and from ceilings. I selected objects in stages of decay, allowing the unique surroundings of each piece to inspire their embellishment and repair. Over time, the retrieval of objects became a ritualistic practice for me, where I developed my sense of contemplation and being present. Overall, my aim has been to offer a fresh view, inviting observers to see these unnoticed articles through a renewed lens, drawing attention to beauty, value, and fragility.

**Holly Millar:** Behind Silent Faces

Behind Silent Faces is a series that captures moments of vulnerability. These drawings embody our innermost emotions that are common to the human experience. Each piece reflects feelings we often keep to ourselves and the words we leave unspoken. My drawings convey a sense of stillness and quiet, highlighting the isolating nature of these emotions. Behind Silent Faces encourages contemplation and introspection around the ever-changing nature of these heightened states and what it means to be alive.

**Shelby Rusbatch:** Mis-interpretation

I often misunderstand things, as do many; it's very easy to misinterpret things due to how fast we string words together as well as our mind's eagerness to interpret potentially ambiguous imagery. This situation can lead to confusion and awkwardness. Still, I've come



to see the positive, exciting side that resides in misinterpretation. Have you ever seen faces in power sockets or in knots of wood or facial expressions on the backs of cars?

This experience of seeing imagined faces or other types of imagined imagery is called pareidolia. My work explores this experience, asking how visual misinterpretation can in fact aid memory, form beliefs, and reveal further clues about how one might see the world.

Ends

### **Media opportunity**

We invite media to the exhibition opening and can share (embargoed) winners of awards once selections are made. If you wish to preview the works or speak with some students prior to the exhibition opening please contact:

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