

2023 ASSESSMENT REPORT

ART315123 VISUAL ART

Firstly, it is a delight to have the opportunity to view and examine approximately 850 bodies of work for *Visual Art* Level 3, especially in its first year of assessment with the new syllabus. We were approximately 50 bodies up from previous years, indicating the subject's robustness and beautiful growth. The number of EA bodies was also on the rise, a testament to the energy and motivation teachers of this subject are delivering in the classroom. Well done!

The panel cannot stress enough the value in examining and observing this syllabus. Not only does it open the doorway to making connections with other teachers of *Visual Art* Level 3 (this is particularly relevant for those teachers in small/isolated schools), but it reinforces standards and opens the possibility to a variety of mediums and ideas.

Criterion 3, the idea that underpins the body of work, continues to be the most challenging, and only the most sophisticated folios receive high ratings. The mature and motivated students prove to embrace this concept and completely own it. The highly rated folios are unique and well-researched. The visual art diary complements and extends the idea embedded in the folio. The inclusion of responses with each module enhances the quality of the visual art diaries. The exceptional examples reflected and responded to their art-making journey beautifully. A handful of journals were simply breathtaking. Continue to guide students to carefully consider the message they wish to convey with their folios. The opportunity to exhibit a folio gives the student a chance to educate and engage with the audience.

The second most challenging criterion is Skills, Criterion 2. When viewing a folio, this is the aspect that jumps from the wall. The examining panel recognises that the development of skill takes experimentation, guidance and, most importantly, time. The support material and the broad range of tasks are evident. It is great to see the energy that is delivered to this criterion in the classroom and the importance of guiding the student towards the medium that will lead them to success within this syllabus. We continue to see incredible folios made in a variety of mediums. Ceramics continues to be on the rise. The exceptional folios were skilled and were always complemented by immense support material carefully demonstrating glazing techniques and the process. In 2023, we also saw the rise of mixed media, particularly using textiles. In the north of the state, we saw some stunning folios.

While discussing support material, it is important to adhere to the ruling that all elements of the folio are to be submitted by the set due date. This includes the visual art diary/s, regardless of the school's examination date. All students state-wide are equal regarding the hours given to the *Visual Art* Level 3 course.

With the rise of digital-based mediums, it is advised to thoroughly document the development process. AI comes to mind when discussing the importance of screenshots and progress photographs. The important visual diary is the tool to educate the assessment panel regarding the important process and idea generation.

The same can be delivered to works that use appropriated imagery in the folio development; it is imperative to acknowledge and reference all source material. This will benefit the student in the examination process.

A reminder when the course material suggests six pieces, this is the minimum. Instead, keep in mind that this course is 150 hours. Students should aim to complete a folio that doesn't just scrape the surface of an idea but digs deep. The scale of the folio helps with this and can, therefore, extend across other criteria. Cohesion comes to mind. To rate high on the cohesion criterion, the folio should tick both the quantity and quality boxes.

Painting and drawing continue to be the most popular of mediums; gone are the photography glory days. Having said that, we do still have colleges and schools across the state where photography is their chosen medium and is being delivered well. Over the last four years, there seems to be a trend to rise from the computer chair and recognise the delight in 'making'. There was a time when this was not the case, so it is encouraging and healthy to see teachers of this subject 'opening the art cupboard' to other exciting ways of making art and the importance of process. At several colleges, we saw large bodies of work that were doing just this. We saw evidence of experimenting with the etching press and presenting large-scale works centred on design and expression; the same can be said for painting bodies working in the same ethos. Exciting stuff!

It really is something special to view the folios of *Visual Art* Level 3 students. They have unique and exciting voices, thumping with ideas, expression and energy, that stays with us long after leaving a school. Underpinning these incredible young people are hardworking, passionate teachers of *Visual Art* 3. We commend you all on an exciting 2023.