



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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STUDENT ARTISTS LIFT SPIRITS OF SICK YOUNGSTERS

Fifty works of young artists will hang in the Art Gallery of NSW from today before joining the permanent collection of The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner officially opened 'Operation Art' - an initiative of The Children's Hospital at Westmead in association with the NSW Department of Education and Communities which is in its 19th year.

The 50 artworks showcased were chosen from almost 900 entries created by NSW school students in Kindergarten up to Year 10.

These works will be exhibited at the Art Gallery of NSW for one month before touring selected galleries in regional NSW in 2014. They will ultimately hang in The Children's Hospital at Westmead, alongside Australian and international artists of renown.

"It is wonderful to see talented young artists giving inspiration and joy receiving treatment in hospital," Mrs Skinner said.

"These budding young artists have the privilege of exhibiting their artworks in the same gallery as some of the art world's biggest names.

"However, I suspect the greater satisfaction comes from knowing their work is aiding the healing process for young patients and fostering a sense of wellbeing within The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

"I congratulate these talented youngsters and encourage the community to take the opportunity to view their work," Mrs Skinner said.

Student artists featured in this year's Operation Art exhibition include:

- Dexter Berthon, 5, from Leura Public School, who won the Junior ANSTO award for his colourful depiction of his injured teddy bear in hospital.
- Joanna Sun, 14, from Hornsby Girls High School, who won the Senior ANSTO award for her pastel drawing of a house and bushes.

The Operation Art exhibition will run at the Art Gallery of NSW until December 15. Entry is free.