Young artists’ exhibition

By Rhody Gleeson

Paper, cotton, wine and puns certainly not the typical mediums for artistic expression but for four St Francis de Sales College Year 12 students, embracing the unusual has paid off, earning them a place in the 2016 SACE Art Show.

The annual showcase will give the young artists the chance to have their works viewed by more than 5000 people in Light Square in Adelaide.

Art teacher Talia Hails was thrilled that four of her 11 students made it into next year’s show which will feature more than 150 works from students all over SA.

“IT is so fantastic they are going to have their talents featured publicly, they have worked so hard on such a diverse range of projects,” she said.

The four selected works were created using a number of different techniques including Mika Goy’s origami dress, Sophie Maher’s cotton portrait, Kathryn McIntyre’s wine label and Kerrie Costa’s surf-styled fashion brand.

Some of the projects also had a deeper meaning such as Sophie Maher’s ambitious artwork ‘Tension’ which features 3km of cotton thread carefully woven around a bed of more than 11,000 nails.

Miss Maher wanted to explore the issue of child abuse in her art and said her chosen medium also helped tell the story.

“The tension created by the cotton, and how precarious the piece is, shows how precious children are and the permanent effects that child abuse can have on someone so young,” she said.

“I wanted to focus on child abuse as it is a largely diverse topic that has been getting a lot of attention in the media lately and has personal relevance to myself.”

The artwork represents more than three terms’ worth of work and Miss Maher said she initially underestimated the challenge of completing such a large project.

“When I first decided to use nails and cotton I was optimistic that it wouldn’t be too hard,” she said. “However, as time went on, I procrastinated more and more because it is tedious and time consuming work.

“It was worth it though, because now many people will get to see my work at the 2016 SACE Showcase and become aware of child abuse and what it does to children.”

The students’ artworks may be viewed at the 2016 SACE Art show held in Light Square in Adelaide early next year.

LEFT: Kathryn McIntyre designed a wine label inspired by her family’s winery.

LEFT: Year 12 St Francis de Sales College students Mika Goy, left, Sophie Maher, Kathryn McIntyre and Kerrie Costa made their art teacher Talia Hails, centre, proud by each earning a place in the 2016 SACE art show.