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By Jen Walker

HIGHLANDS HSC students have taken the spotlight in the creative and performing arts fields, with the work of several students nominated for NSW government showcases.

Artexpress is an annual exhibition of exemplary artworks created by students for the HSC examination in visual arts.

Four Oxley College students, one Moss Vale High student and one Bowral High student have been nominated for Artexpress. At Oxley, Caitlyn Bellis (painting), Grace Naughton (drawing), Monique Turczynski (painting) and Amelia Worthington (drawing) have all been nominated.

Lauren Fay from Moss Vale High created a series of nine acrylic artworks which depict the transition of her family farm into a mining site.

Bowral High’s Raphael Lee’s nine-piece ceramic work depicts a school playground, and is based on John Brack’s Collins Street, 5pm. The school has had 14 students nominated for Artexpress in the last five years.

Artexpress nominees will find out in early December whether their work has been selected for the exhibition, which tours the state next year.

Callback is the showcase of standout performances and compositions by HSC students of dance.

Chevalier student Lucianna Spackman has received two Callback nominations, one for her solo Core Performance and another for her Core Composition, which she choreographed and taught to a different dancer who performed it for her.

Lucianna has accepted an offer to study full time at the prestigious dance training centre Ev & Bow in 2016.

Onstage recognises the best drama performances by HSC students. Oxley College had two drama ensemble groups nominated for Onstage, one of which was selected.

The selected piece, Wasteland, is about the destruction of the environment and was written by Samara Lov, Antonia Ryman, Monique Turczynski and Nicholas Antoniak. The group will perform the piece during a season at the Seymour Centre in February.

Encore is a program of outstanding music performance and compositions. Oxley’s Zac Moran was nominated for this showcase and if selected will perform at the Sydney Opera House in February.