



the **childr<sup>en</sup>'s** hospital at Westmead  
**media release**

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## Artworks give sick kids a reason to smile

Most children's artworks don't make it further than the kitchen fridge but for 50 NSW school students their creations will take pride of place in The Children's Hospital at Westmead helping to make sick kids feel better as part of Operation Art.

An initiative of The Children's Hospital at Westmead in association with The Department of Education and Communities, Operation Art gives students the opportunity to design artworks for sick children to aid the healing process.

The carefully selected 50 finalists were revealed to the public in the 2014 Operation Art opening exhibition at the Armory Gallery last week. The exhibition showcases more than 700 artworks created by students from Kindergarten to Year 10.

Operation Art Coordinator, Lisa van den Dolder, said the artworks in this year's exhibition display an array of talent that highlights why the program is so successful.

"The entries in this year's exhibit are extraordinary. Whether it is a painting of a purple, glittery gecko or drawing of a chicken driving a bus, each of these artworks reflects what Operation Art is all about, cheering up children in hospital."

"Research shows that bright, colourful, optimistic artwork can play a vital role in the healing process and we are so grateful to have so many students helping their peers towards recovery," she said.

Leading Australian artist and 2013 Archibald prize winner, Del Kathryn Barton officially opened the exhibition on Saturday, 6th September. The event also included a range of family activities and performances by NSW public school students.

The exhibition will be open daily from September 6 to the October 26 between 10am and 4pm. Entry is free.