



the **childr^{en}'s** hospital at Westmead
media release

Cnr Hawkesbury Rd & Hainsworth St
Locked Bag 4001
Westmead NSW 2145

Young artists in frame for sick kids

The annual exhibition, Operation Art, is back this year with more than 820 students across New South Wales showcasing their talents to help make sick kids feel better through the power of art.

The official opening of the exhibition will take place on Saturday, 14 September at the Armory Gallery, Sydney Olympic Park. Operation Art, an initiative of [The Children's Hospital at Westmead](#) in association with the New South Wales [Department of Education](#) and in collaboration with [Sydney Olympic Park Authority](#), involves school students in Kindergarten to Year 10 from more than 240 NSW schools creating artworks for children in hospital.

Sydney Olympic Park Authority's Director of Place Management, Susan Skuodas said the Authority is delighted to support a project as important as Operation Art, which helps brighten the lives of children in hospital.

"The exhibition at the Armory Gallery is an inspiring showcase of artworks by some very talented students, and it is a much-loved part of the annual arts and culture calendar we have at Sydney Olympic Park," she said.

"The artworks in the exhibition have been created by kids – for kids in hospital, and it's wonderful to know that they will bring colour and imagination to children and families when they need it most."

This year, Operation Art brings 773 artworks from students across New South Wales schools with the sole purpose of creating art to uplift patients in a hospital setting. Among the hundreds submitted, 50 artworks will be chosen to be hung up in The Children's Hospital at Westmead as part of their permanent art collection.

Ivy Baddock, Art Curator at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, has the difficult task of being a judge to select the Top 50 artworks. "The wonderful artworks completed through Operation Art offer patients and their families respite from the clinical hospital environment and instil a sense of calm and distraction in otherwise stressful, noisy and busy spaces. Each year, I am blown away by the calibre of artworks that are submitted. It makes my job extremely difficult to determine who makes our Top 50 collection," she said.

An additional 100 artworks will also be chosen for display in The Office of the Children's Guardian, NSW Government Department offices as well as many regional hospitals.

Professor Chris Cowell, Acting Chief Executive for Sydney Children's Hospitals Network, will officially open the exhibition on Saturday, 14 September, with the help of Angela Campos and Aisha Khan from Casula High School. The event will also include family activities and performances by featured artists from a variety of groups including Arts Alive Choir, NSW Public Schools Millennium Marching Band, Illawarra Junior Vocal Ensemble, Tuggerah Lakes secondary College Dance Groups, Blacktown Girls High School "Tribal Drum" Group and the PULSE Public Schools Big Band.

Operation Art at the Armory Gallery **will be open daily from 14 September until 16 November, 10am to 4pm**, in Sydney Olympic Park. Entry is free.

-ENDS-

Media contact:

Sheri Locmayon
Public Relations Department
The Children's Hospital at Westmead
P: (02) 9845 3572
E: sherilyn.locmayon@health.nsw.gov.au