National Student Wearable Art Showcase 2027

Australian Wearable Art Festival

in partnership with St Andrew's Anglican College

STUDENT AWARDS

Students enter one open field - there are no entry categories. All accepted finalists are considered for the field-wide awards. The Junior and Senior Encouragement Awards are then selected from remaining eligible entries. A maximum of one judged award may be received by any entry.

Overall Award - $1,000

Recognising the strongest and most fully resolved work of wearable art across the complete Student Showcase field.

The Overall Award celebrates originality, vision, making and impact. Concept, materials, form, construction, relationship with the body and runway presentation come together as one compelling work.

CENTRAL QUESTION Which entry is the strongest and most complete achievement in wearable art overall?

What this award recognises

- A strong and original artistic idea.
- A clear connection between concept, materials, form, construction and presentation.
- A work that is complete and convincing from every viewpoint.
- A meaningful relationship between the artwork, the body and movement.
- Memorable artistic impact on close inspection and on the runway.

Material Innovation Award - $700

Recognising an inventive or experimental approach that reveals new creative possibilities in the use of materials.

This award is not simply about choosing an unusual material. The way the material is explored, changed, combined or constructed should strengthen the artwork's originality, concept and impact.

CENTRAL QUESTION Has the student revealed a fresh possibility in the way materials are selected, changed, constructed or used?

What this award recognises

- An unexpected or imaginative choice, combination or use of materials.
- Experimentation that discovers new qualities or possibilities in a material.
- Creative methods of shaping, joining, constructing, treating or applying materials.
- A clear connection between the material choices and the artwork's idea.
- A finished work in which innovation strengthens the artistic impact.

Technical Excellence Award - $700

Recognising outstanding skill, care and problem-solving in construction, engineering, finish and wearability.

This award celebrates the technical decisions that allow a work to function safely, move effectively and remain convincing from the runway and under close inspection. Complexity is not required.

CENTRAL QUESTION Has every technical part of the work been resolved with outstanding skill, precision and care?

What this award recognises

- Secure, accurate and appropriate construction.
- Skill and control in the techniques used.
- Intelligent solutions for weight, balance, support, movement or scale.
- Careful finishing of surfaces, edges, joins, fastenings and internal elements.
- Safe, durable wearability and a convincing finish from every viewpoint.

Trash Transformed Award - $700

Recognising an outstanding work that transforms discarded, recovered or reclaimed material into wearable art of strong creative value.

This award celebrates the ability to see possibility in materials that have been rejected or destined for disposal, demonstrating imagination, purposeful transformation and a resolved artistic outcome.

CENTRAL QUESTION Has the student transformed discarded material so powerfully that we see both the material and its possibilities differently?

What this award recognises

- At least 80% of the principal visible materials are discarded, recovered, reclaimed or demonstrably destined for disposal.
- These materials form a meaningful foundation of the work rather than a token inclusion.
- The materials have been substantially reimagined, manipulated or transformed.
- The finished work has strong artistic presence and stands on its merits as wearable art.
- The material choice strengthens the concept and changes how the audience sees the discarded material.

Junior Encouragement Award - Years 9-10 - $450

Recognising an outstanding and memorable work by a student or student team in Years 9-10.

The Junior Encouragement Award acknowledges creative promise, resourcefulness and achievement within the Junior age group. It is selected after the field-wide awards from an entry that has not already received another judged award.

CENTRAL QUESTION Which remaining Junior entry most deserves special recognition for its creativity, achievement and promise?

What this award recognises

- An imaginative idea expressed clearly through the completed artwork.
- Strong choices in materials, form, construction and presentation.
- Resourcefulness, commitment and creative problem-solving.
- A resolved work with runway impact and distinctive achievement.

Senior Encouragement Award - Years 11-12 - $450

Recognising an outstanding and memorable work by a student or student team in Years 11-12.

The Senior Encouragement Award acknowledges artistic maturity, creative ambition and achievement. It is selected after the field-wide awards from an entry that has not already received another judged award. Mixed-year teams are considered Senior entries.

CENTRAL QUESTION Which remaining Senior entry most deserves special recognition for its artistic achievement, ambition and resolution?

What this award recognises

- A confident and original artistic idea.
- Strong integration of concept, materials, form, construction and presentation.
- Creative ambition supported by thoughtful decision-making and problem-solving.
- A resolved, compelling work with distinctive achievement.

AWAF 2027 AWARD-WINNERS PRESENTATION

The six award-winning artworks will be invited to appear in a special National Student Showcase presentation during both the AWAF Matinee and Gala shows on Saturday 14 August 2027. Participation is optional and will not affect judging or award eligibility. Student artists are not required to attend the Saturday shows.

Before the National Student Showcase, finalists and their Nominated Adult Contacts will be asked whether their artwork would be available if it receives an award. Participating artworks must remain safe and wearable for the additional performances.

AWAF will arrange secure storage between the Thursday Showcase and Saturday performances. Collection by a family member or nominated representative, or return freight where collection is not practical, will be agreed with the Nominated Adult Contact before the artwork is retained. These arrangements will include confirmation of who is responsible for any return freight costs.