

EDUCATION

A moving story of innovation

This visual-arts teacher has brought the subject to life on film, writes **Kristie Kellahan**.

Teaching high-school art can lead to wonderful things and to inspiring places, as Hannah Chapman discovered recently.

Chapman, a visual-arts teacher at Newington College and the inaugural curator of the school's Concordia Gallery, has been hobnobbing with the art world's elite at exhibitions around the globe. As the winner of the 2012 NSW Premier's COFA Visual Arts Scholarship, Chapman was awarded \$15,000, funds she used to travel to the Shanghai Biennale. A trip to London and the Venice Biennale is planned for later in 2013.

In the charged biennale environment of experimental contemporary art, Chapman says she interviewed curators, artists, audiences and art critics. Her mission: to produce a film that will inspire secondary-school students.

"Biennales often are a testing ground for the most experimental contemporary art at any time," she says. "They are the site of best practice to document repositioned roles of the art world, audience, artist and artwork." At the Shanghai

Biennale, curators had organised a number of artists and organisations from around the globe to represent their home cities by presenting an exhibition or project. The themed pavilions explored the concept of personal identity based on cities.

Chapman worked with the Sydney Pavilion curatorial team from 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art to document some of its exhibiting artists, including Brook Andrew, Khaled Sabsabi and Bababa International. When introducing her students to contemporary art of note, Chapman felt she "needed to do more" than write accounts, interpretations or transcribe interviews.

It was the "immediacy and temporality of the art world, audience, artist and artwork" that found a perfect outlet in film.

"It is integral to the quality of teaching and learning that students are supported to engage with real-world agencies, breaking down the boundary between classroom and gallery or exhibition," Chapman says. She is looking forward to heading to Venice in June for the Italian city's



Drawn in: Hannah Chapman is connecting with her students in creative ways. Photo: Steven Siewert

acclaimed biennale. Next stop will be London, where she will seek input on the film from contemporary art institutions including the Tate, the ICA, the Serpentine Gallery and Goldsmiths, University of London.

"I'm interested to learn from contemporary art galleries with experience in public programming and successful contemporary art-education models," she says.

Chapman's film will have a preview screening at the Visual Art and Design Educators Association conference in June, before it is made available to schools and further learning networks.

Teachers in Victoria may be eligible to apply for the Victorian Education Excellence Awards.

INDUSTRY JOB FOCUS

Private music teachers

► Number employed in year to November 2012 **6700**

► Growth in past 10 years **14.6%**

Average weekly wage (full time)

\$1450

Average weekly wage (full time all occupations)

\$1162

► Full time **20.3%**

► Average weekly hours full time **41.8**

Unemployment Average

