Santa Maria College student wins Black Swan Youth Portraiture Prize

Ruth Loveridge, a Year 12 student at Santa Maria College in Attadale, recently took out first place in the high school section of the 2015 Black Swan Youth Portraiture Prize.

Ruth’s winning artwork, entitled ‘Grandad’, is a sensitive exploration of the character of her grandfather, Thomas Gerard Darwin, who suffers from macular degeneration. The work was picked for the top honour from portraits submitted by 135 young artists, studying from Years 7-12 at 32 schools across Australia.

Ruth said that her striking portrait was intended to show how her grandfather’s personal experience was affected by his limited vision.

“His restricted sight leads him into a world of memories where ‘little voices’ in him speak as reflections and philosophical thoughts”.

‘Grandad’ was influenced by the style, technique and materials used by artist Andy Quilty, with Ruth saying she was drawn to his technique by its sensitive, loose nature, perfect for highlighting her grandfather’s eyes as a focal point in her portrait.

Ruth’s work can be viewed with other entries in the Black Swan Youth Portraiture Prize until 4 October at Linton and Kay Galleries, 137 St Georges Terrace, Perth.