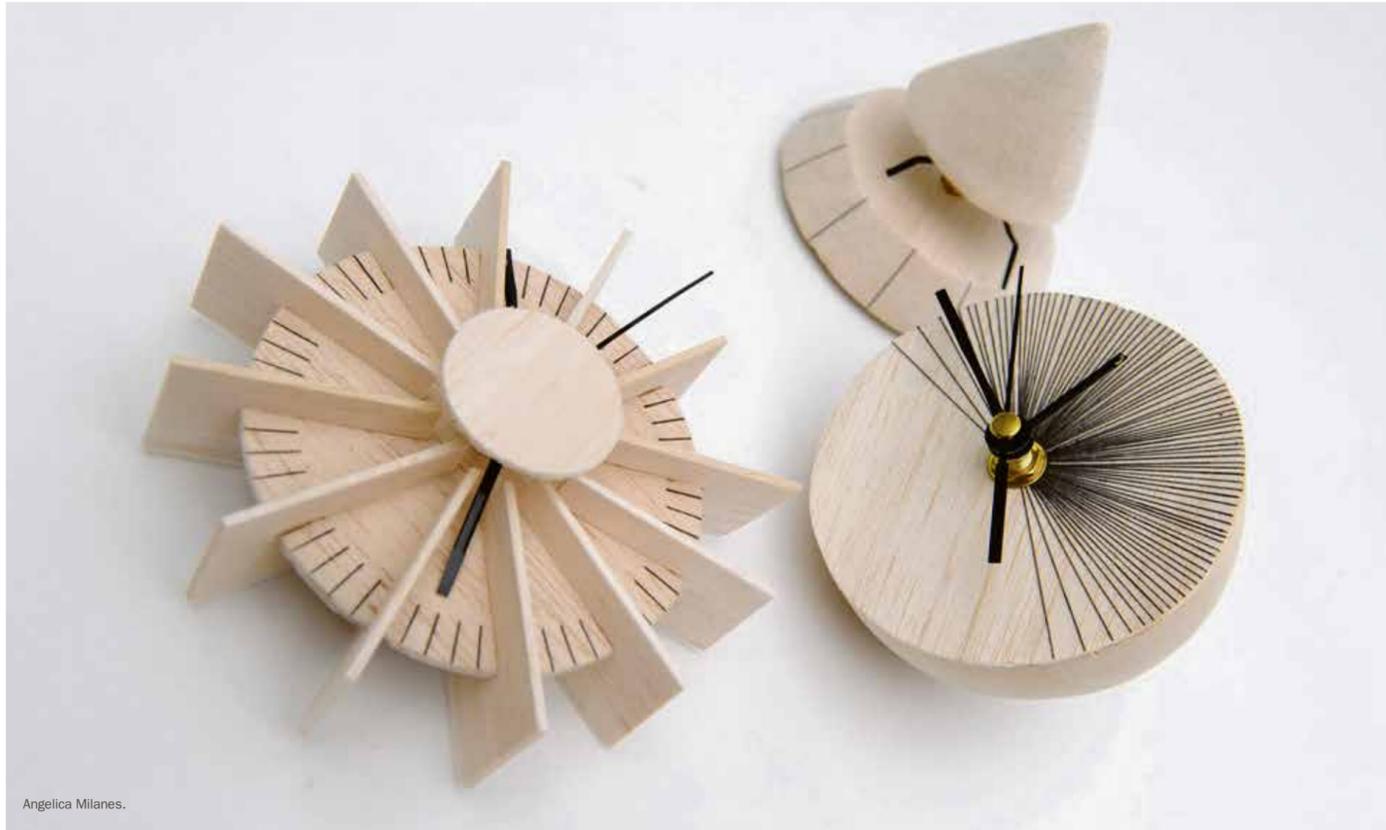


FORM

FORM



Angelica Milanes.

CELEBRATING EMERGING DESIGN

BY DANIELLA CASAMENTO

Top Designs 2013 reflects a vast wealth of emerging student designers from across Victoria. Each year, Melbourne Museum exhibits outstanding work produced by VCE students who have spent their last school year pursuing design disciplines that range from Product Design and Technology, Visual Communication, Systems Engineering, Multimedia to Film and a few more besides. This year 108 VCE students, selected from over 1900 applicants across state and independent schools, are honoured to have their original work and supporting folios on show.

“Top Designs has called Melbourne Museum home for over a decade,” said Brett Dunlop, Manager, Melbourne Museum. “It

has become a key exhibition that we look forward to every year and we are certainly very proud to be involved with so many talented young Victorians. The exhibition not only shows great design but also stands as a testament to the students’ innovation and ambition.”

Miranda Picton-Warlow, Top Designs curator, adds, “It’s fantastic to see the students’ and teachers’ hard work come together to form such an exhibition. These subjects are tough and time-heavy, so students develop strong networks which help them to achieve their best. The results are fantastic and the students should be very proud of their work.”

Sophie Hodges has always aspired to have her work accepted into Top Designs. While

studying Product Design and Technology at Carey Baptist Grammar School, Hodges conceived the idea of wearable art made of ceramic, leather thonging and glass beads. The result is ‘Trio’.

All three pieces exhibited at Top Designs represent a thought process which delves into the tension between “the masculinity of structure contrasted with soft materials and fragile ceramics,” explains Hodges. With her focus on bone structure and particularly collarbones, the pieces were moulded and draped to fit her client’s petite shoulders. “I’m honoured that ‘Trio’ is displayed alongside a broad range of accomplished designs,” she said. “It is an acknowledgement of the time, effort and hard work that goes into studying folio subjects.” Hodges now studies Fashion, Textiles and Merchandising at RMIT Brunswick.

Joshua Littman says he is aware of the prestige attributed to Top Designs and is excited and honoured to have his project included in the exhibition after “such a year of adversity.” As a former student of Mowbray College, he enrolled at Catholic Regional College after the mid-year collapse of his former school. Studying Systems Engineering gave Littman a practical outlet for his childhood passion for electronics and soldering, and despite the disruption to his studies he quickly adjusted to a new environment and range of tools. Littman’s ‘Spy Recon Tank’ (SRT) is a reconnaissance



Isabelle Mead.

robot inspired by bomb disposal robots. “Its main purpose,” he says, “is to go places that humans can’t go so that it can determine a safe path in times of disaster.” Littman has begun a degree in Bachelor of Information Technology at La Trobe University in Bundoora.

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As a regular visitor to Top Designs at Melbourne Museum, Zoe Blow’s ultimate ambition was to have her VCE folio selected for exhibition. When she found herself surrounded by a vast array of colourful gelato during a visit to the 2011 Venice Biennale in Italy, the seed was planted for the packaging design of ‘Willow & Sage’. Blow hopes that the display of supporting material from her folio explains her thought process throughout the entire design phase. ‘Willow & Sage’ shows a considered resolution of brand and packaging which utilises colour to represent ingredients in a “burst of flavour”, as she puts it. The VCE course in Visual Communications and Design required Blow to develop a client brief aimed at responding to design problems in a professional way and has prepared her well for her degree in Communication and Design at RMIT.

Top Designs 2013 is a highlight of the VCE Season of Excellence and is managed by the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA). The exhibition is complemented by a series of education programs developed by Melbourne Museum’s Education and



Zoe Blow.

Community Programs department and includes introductory talks, forums and professional development sessions for teachers. Visitors to Top Designs 2013 will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite work to win the People’s Choice Award through the Eckersley’s Art & Craft Facebook page.

Top Designs 2013 will be held at Melbourne Museum from March 16 to June 30 and is complemented by a series of education programs including introductory talks, forums and professional development sessions for teachers. museumvictoria.com.au/melbournmuseum



Joshua Littman.

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