

Case study: National Stories/Creativity and Innovation

Ancestry and Artefact



Migration Museum, Adelaide

Exploring Identity through History and Art

Each artwork in *Ancestry and Artefact* tells a story about the roles that history and heritage play in forming personal identity. Collectively, they reflect our wonderfully diverse community.

Sixteen art students from Marryatville High School have worked with their teacher, Sheryl Morgan, and Migration Museum Education Manager

Rosa Garcia. The resulting exhibition has taken students on a journey of exploration, of their own

personal history, of their ancestry and of broader migration stories in South Australia. The exhibition is an exciting example of how separate learning areas such as History and Art can work together and enrich each other.

Ancestry and Artefact was inspired by *Home Stories*, an Adelaide Central School of Art and Migration Museum collaborative exhibition awarded the Eran Svigos Award for Best Visual Art in the 2011 Adelaide Fringe Awards. Working on a similar model students were given the opportunity to choose objects from the Migration Museum's collection that resonated with their heritage. They used the objects as inspiration to create their own artworks.

The students began by visiting the *Home Stories* exhibition during the Fringe Festival. They heard the artists speak about their work and visited the Migration Museum to find out where their own family history fitted into South Australia's immigration history. Back at school and at home they spent time researching their family and community histories. Later they worked with Migration Museum curators to identify artefacts that spoke to them about their heritage.....and then the real work began! Guided by their teacher Sheryl Morgan and mentored by artist Roy Ananda, the students began to conceive and painstakingly create their art works. Some were directly inspired by objects from the Migration Museum collection that were selected to connect with the students' own family histories, others chose inspiration from their own family mementoes or stories.

Students have worked in mediums ranging from pen and pencil, water colour, acrylic paint, photography, paper sculpture and decoupage. The result is a rich and diverse exploration of the students' reflections on their family heritage and how their stories fit into South Australia's history.

<http://www.history.sa.gov.au/migration/exhibitions/Ancestry%20and%20Artefact.html>