



TEACHERS AS ARTS PRACTITIONERS (TAPs) PROJECT: INSIGHTS FROM THE EXHIBITION

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The inaugural 'Patana Canvases' exhibition was a huge success among our students, sparking curiosity, inspiration and a new appreciation for artistic expression. The TAPs project encourages staff to explore and showcase their artistic talents to the community, fostering creativity and connection. A big thank you to all students who took the time to write meaningful comments (nearly 200 received!) – these have been shared with the artists. This article offers a snapshot of their reflections and common perspectives from the exhibition comment box. House points are being awarded to all those who left insightful feedback.

STUDENTS' REACTIONS: A NEWFOUND APPRECIATION FOR ART

Many were struck by the dedication and creativity of their teachers and business staff. Patrisa (Tam) Pungpa-pong, 7A expressed admiration for the effort the artists put in despite their busy schedules: "It moved me...they used the little free time they had and devoted it to bring the showcase to life." Yawei (Annie) Shen, 7U was similarly in awe: "They were all so amazing. The teachers must have spent so long making these".

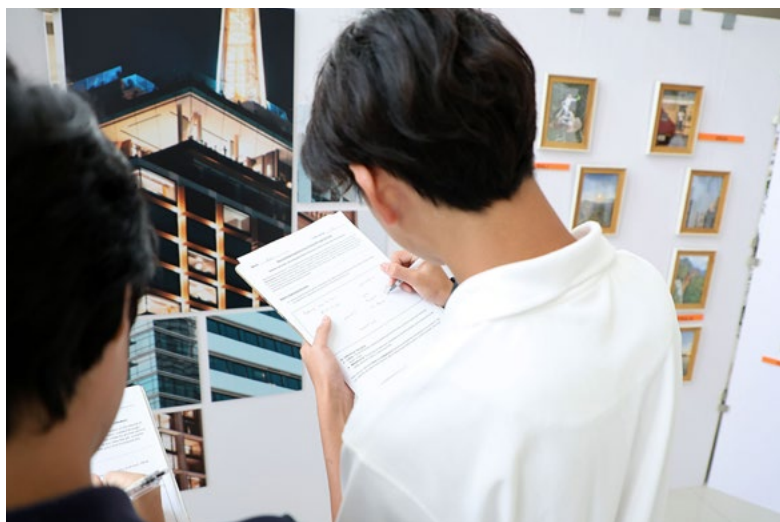
For others, the exhibition transformed their understanding of art's power. Kevin Keiser, 7A reflected, "Seeing all the artwork made me realise that art isn't just about how it looks, it also has a deeper meaning. You could tell a

whole story from one piece of artwork. I never knew art could be this powerful." Students found the exhibition moving - "Each of the different pieces of art move you in different ways and emotions. Wow!" Nia Ekaraphanich, 9N

Elena Burton, 11C was inspired by the diversity of artistic expression, adding, "This exhibition has taught me the importance of expressing yourself because someone is always listening" and Danny Hattasingh, 7B found new meaning in everyday objects, explaining, "It inspired me that just some normal items, like we see or pass every day, have a meaning and can become beautiful artwork—just different points of view."

THE HIDDEN TALENTS OF TEACHERS: A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

The showcase also changed students' perceptions of their teachers, revealing hidden creative talents. Davine Park, 7A shared, "I was surprised by the other side of teachers—creativity, strength, and motivation. I saw the hard work that took part and was impressed by it." Meanwhile, Arlyn Sorakraikitikul, 8B echoed this sentiment: "Many shocked me that ordinary teachers could be such great artists. I can only imagine how much effort and work each and every practitioner puts into these wonderful pieces." Prim Yuvanasiri, 7A appreciated seeing teachers in a new light, stating, "Some students don't understand



that teachers have creativity too. It's so nice to see them showcase their work and let them see the uniqueness of them."

Specific Themes from Student Reflections

ART THAT INSPIRED IMAGINATION, WONDER AND CURIOSITY

For example, Poonyanuch (Amy) Soontharinka, 7J was struck by Tidarat (GungGaew's) paintings: "Awakening under the Midnight Glow inspired and moved me. I liked the idea and colours which explained the word "midnight," whilst Aunree Mishra, 7C appreciated "the detail and the colour blending."

ART THAT EVOKED DIVERSITY, CULTURE AND EMOTIONAL DEPTH

JinJin Hu, 7T was drawn to Ian McDonald's Thai mythological art, "because they have a lot of culture in them." Students shared how some pieces evoked emotional responses, such as on Sue Perkins' digital portraits, Ellie Vergara, 7B reflected, "Miss Sue Perks' artwork really inspired me. She conveyed beautiful emotions ranging from joy to loneliness via digital artwork. Her use of colours, hues, and complementary tones moved each piece's concepts to evoke a sense of depth and contemplation in each portrait. I feel inspired as many of her pieces depict

those of minorities and successfully create a sense of humanity in each person. I am inspired to make an inclusive change from her depiction of unity in diversity."

ART THAT ENCOURAGED APPRECIATION FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

Art that took everyday elements and transformed them into something beautiful also had an impact. Kenyo Nonaka and Ritsu Kurita, 7B were inspired by Romeu Barros' simple objects that made him "want to appreciate the life in small things," while Ritsu was fascinated by "how art can encourage students to see the beauty in the mundane and reflect on their surroundings in deeper ways."

ENCOURAGING CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING USING REAL EXHIBITED ART

Drama performances also deeply moved students. Khongkwan Kim, 8B described how Sharon Godfrey's monologues resonated with her, "Each piece evoked the sense of feeling limited, misunderstood, or powerless—which I feel resonates with us all. I especially loved Miss Meadow's performance of a woman called Jennie and Miss Godfrey's 'Cost of Loyalty.'"

ART THAT STIMULATED REFLECTION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND APPRECIATION OF



NATURE

On Rattanchai Phangsa's sculpture 'People of the Future,' Dhruv Agarwal, 7J commented: "The 3D design inspired me because it links to e-waste, and we are polluting the world", and Zhuo Yi, 7A added, "it really made me think about how if we humans harm the environment, our planet could become a dystopian society and a wasteland." Students also admired Coke Smith's wildlife photography showcasing the beauty of animals in their natural habitats. "They show different and rare animals, and it also shows me how beautiful wildlife can be." Proud Vijakhana, 7C. Min Wannaiampikul, 10F commented on how Chris Ferne's digital photography raises awareness of key issues of our generation, "I really like Mr. Ferne's piece since I think there isn't enough media about this topic (pollution)".

ART THAT ENGAGED THE SENSES

Kaylee Kim, 7J was struck by how art can stimulate multiple senses such as in Sneha's Mathew's immersive edible art installation 'Enchanted Forest', "As the plants were alive, you can experience it better via smell." On Weerapol's Moundej's light installation, Matthias Thrane, 7T was fascinated by how "light displayed the way that shadows stretch and bend to create figures." On Grace Chen's food photography, Mingkun Wei, 8J remarked, "The Mango Sago pictures made me incredibly hungry, and the realistic (photo) was captured so beautifully. It glowed in my opinion."

BUILDING ARTS-RELATED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

The art displayed encouraged students to explore the cultural and technical aspects of creating art. Preme Pong-

paint, 7A admired Pimpakarn (Jam's) Abhinoraseth oil paintings: "I think what inspired me was the different types of flowers drawn and the diversity of them. They were really unique. How did you learn to do this?" Benjamin Jacob, 8S was curious about learning the technical skills relevant to Mark Lanzuela's photography, "How did you capture the 'The Magic of Erawan Waterfalls'?"

ART FOR WELLBEING

Students admired the use of art as a relaxing hobby: "I really like the crocheted artwork by Duangporn because crocheting is a good way to relax, and it's a fun hobby that has a really cute and impressive result." Kayla Srivorakul, 7B and "it moved me that Mr McDonald created this art to relax." Preen Thongbenjamas, 8W.

THE LASTING IMPACT: INSPIRING FUTURE CREATIVITY

The inaugural TAPs exhibition inspired students to appreciate the diverse creativity of our staff.

"Everyone of the artworks were magnificent in their own ways. Everyone was able to capture their passions and interests in their work and that is what art is, which moved me". Annie Xu, 10V.

"I was inspired by many paintings representing teachers' and staff's interests and cultures expressed by their own respective media," Arya Pandit, 8J. The students are eager to see more: "I really hope more events showcasing and embracing teachers' creativity and craftsmanship happen more often." Glenda Ho, 8B.

You can view the exhibition catalogue featuring the artworks and artists [here](#).