

Hands On Bursary recipient 2019, Tristan Kane



What did winning the Hands On Bursary and the recognition of the Artspace Mackay Foundation mean to you?

Receiving the Hands On Bursary in 2019 has offered many opportunities which without the support of the Artspace Mackay Foundation would not have been possible without. Allowing me to complete the very costly final year of my studies with little financial strain. Recognition from the foundation was also a rare opportunity to share my work with the Mackay creative community - something I am incredibly appreciative of.

What did you spend the Bursary on?

In July of this year I was lucky enough to be sponsored by a hand weaving textile mill in Kullu in the far-North of India who would provide all the fabrication for my major research project - as a result of receiving the the Hands-On Bursary from the Artspace Mackay Foundation I was able to travel to India for a month to work alongside artisans and develop woven textiles that would be used my body of work to be presented at the end of this year. The opportunity to travel to India and broaden my research & studies globally was incredible. I realised on this research trip that one of my passions is working with skilled textiles artisans in a dialogue between centuries old traditions and contemporary ideas. Only with the aid of the Hands-On Bursary and the recognition of the Artspace Mackay Foundation was I able to realise this passion and will now be something I continue to develop in my work looking forward.

How has your career progressed since winning the Bursary and what are your plans, goals and aspirations for the future?

Since receiving the bursary, I have been very fortunate to be offered a position at a fashion brand in the UK which I work remotely for from Australia at the moment and on completion of my studies will relocate to London for the position. Really looking forward to what this current opportunity will bring career wise, but my next goal is to pursue post-graduate studies overseas to further my education, hopefully returning back to Mackay or Queensland more broadly at some point as so much of my work is a product of growing up in a regional area. I understand how lucky I am to have grown up in Mackay and am very thankful for all the opportunities it has afforded me especially the Artspace Mackay Foundation's Hands-On Bursary and hope that at some stage in the near future I can give back to the community.

If you had one piece of advice for young art students considering an application for the Hands-On Bursary, what would it be?

The best piece of advice I would give to anyone considering applying for the Hands On Bursary is to be concise with the presentation of your work but really make sure that it is a body of work which showcases a range of skills and creative pursuits.