

2010 Hands On Bursary recipient, Nicola Laidlow



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

For me the Bursary meant an easier transition into university. I had moved from Mackay to Brisbane without knowing anyone and it made starting university a bit easier. I was able to purchase supplies/books. I was able to settle into a new environment and live until I was able to find a job.

What did you spend the Bursary on?

I spent quite a lot of it on art supplies as my university did not provide you with any supplies for your studies. Everything was out of pocket. Having come from a wonderful high school that had all the supplies you could ever need to then having to replace it all.

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

I graduated from my Degree in Fine Arts (Visual Studies minoring in Animation) and I am currently working as a photographer. I did bounce around jobs after I graduated and even now I do work a few jobs. But as a photographer I am able to create wonderful stories and narratives with my camera. I still do draw, paint and etch in my spare time (when I have it) but I am mainly focused on improving my photography techniques with the hopes of travelling around the world to take some awesome photographs.

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

Make art for yourself. Like a lot of my university class mates I made the mistake of trying to make art for the tutors/lecturers. I moved away from the art techniques I found fascinating and tried to create art that was more along the lecturers/tutors views of what art should be. It was never work I was happy with and made making art very frustrating. As a result a lot of my class mates opted out of something that is meant to be interesting and fun as they felt the same way I did. While I continued with my studies and completed the degree it took me a long time to tell my lectures "No this is what I want to do.". I still paint and create etchings now as it is what I like to do. Continue to grow and improve art techniques that you find invigorating otherwise you will burn out and not like art anymore.