

2012 Hands On Bursary recipient, Kaitlin Bakalar



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

The Hands-On-Bursary was a fantastic opportunity for me and I am forever grateful. I made the big leap to study Visual Arts at University on a gut feeling. The bursary really helped my self-confidence grow as an artist and I learnt to trust my gut feeling. Any artist knows that grant writing and submissions are a vital skill to have. Writing my application assisted in my professional career later on and have me a jump start to submissions.

What did you spend the Bursary on?

The bursary was used for a variety of university art supplies. When you study any of the creative arts, textbooks are not the norm. I had to source my own reference books and art supplies. It was extremely helpful in the initial costs of starting a creative career and I would not have been financially able to provide this myself.

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

In my professional career offered the opportunity to work at Artspace and learnt professional galleries processes and practices. The exposure to gallery practices was more than I could have ever imagined. I believe being a recipient of the Bursary was one of the main factors in gaining a position at Artspace. I have since then worked at GOMA, the Galley of Modern Art in Brisbane. My current employment has brought me to a Brisbane based fashion house utilising my creative skills in e-commerce photoshoots and working within their online department.

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

Do it! It will make you a better artist as you learn how to write a submission. It is a gateway for other opportunities and new ventures down the road. This is an amazing chance for any young professional and I am beyond thankful for the skills and avenues it still provides today.