

Media Release

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Snap happy students' success at national awards

"The discipline of finding something you are grateful for to photograph each and every day lead me on a magical path back to my true passion."

Megan Rizzo was one of three Diploma of Photoimaging students to win two silvers in the Portrait Category at this year's Australian Professional Photography Awards (APPA) and her excitement is palpable.

"You want to scream and run around the room, jump up and down and say 'I did that, I made that; that image came from my heart, my hard work!'" she said.

"BUT you quietly step out of the room, find a spot try to do the simplest of tasks, Breath, and again, and another....and after a few minutes, say to yourself. I am worthy. I am proud. The four images I presented I felt were the best four images I had produced."

Fellow students Nathan Smith (Illustrative & Landscape Categories) and Victoria Reid (Portrait Category) also won silver awards for the images they entered in to the competition, which was judged in Sydney at the weekend.

Creative Industries Teacher Michelle Dursun said these are significant accolades for the students.

"These students are judged against the work of about 500 practicing professional photographers," Michelle said.

"There is no allowance for the fact that they are students, so these results carry major weight for them."

Megan, still a student at TAFE Queensland Brisbane, also works out of her own studio specialising in creative and quirky people portraits.

"I have wonderfully inspiring teachers and mentors, Melissa Anderson and Lisa Zarri, who are both previous winners at the AIPP," Megan said.

"The teachers at TAFE Queensland Brisbane, along with the association and relationship fostered by the staff with the AIPP (Australian Institute of Professional Photography), has taken my skill, knowledge, experience and photographic eye to levels I could have never imagined a short two years ago."

Images: Megan Rizzo and her award-winning images.

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