

The Brimbank Leader  
Former student:  
Rhys Parkinson  
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# Family grief caught in artwork

## TOP ART

Helen Jacobs

A BRIMBANK student's artwork, inspired by a family tragedy, is now on show at the National Gallery of Victoria's Ian Potter Centre.

Former Catholic Regional College Sydenham student Rhys Parkinson has had his Year 12 artwork included in the *Top Arts VCE 2008* exhibition, which features the artistic talents of more than 60 students from across the state.

The 18-year-old Melton resident said his portraits, *Amy*

and *Kevin*, were based on his sister's and uncle's reaction to a family death.

"My grandmother died from lung cancer in 2007 (and) the emotions conveyed in the drawings are a reflection of this," Mr Parkinson, now a student at the Victorian College of Arts, said.

"The very large drawings in colour pencil" took Mr Parkinson about two months or 60 hours each to complete.

"I took about 150 photographs of my sister and uncle and then picked a good one from the bunch to draw.

"It was difficult to get the

right shot but I got there in the end."

He said he was "blown away" when he heard his work had been selected for the exhibition. "It was a lot of work, a lot of patience but it's a labour of love."

Mr Parkinson who took out the school's Dux award for excellence in art is now studying drawing as part of his Bachelor of Fine Arts through Melbourne University.

*Top Arts VCE 2008* exhibition runs until June 14.

**Rhys Parkinson with his portraits Amy and Kevin.**

