



Universal view: Ursula Tholmer (far left) says her Archibald Prize subject, Kerry Waman, is inspiring because she radiates positivity.

Portrait is out of this world

THE moment of truth is about to arrive for students of GippsTAFE's Visual Arts program.

Three students and teacher Peter Biram are ready to hand in their work for judging in the most prominent of all Australian art competitions, the Archibald Prize.

Diploma student Ursula Tholmer has just completed her portrait, 'Child of the Universe', which features established local artist and former GippsTAFE student, Kerrie Warren.

"She inspires me, because she radiates positivity," Ursula said.

"Kerrie makes you feel as though anything is possible, and I really wanted to try and capture that on canvas.

"I chose to paint her with the universe unfolding behind her, because I see her as such a spiritually connected person."

Kerrie, who is part of the Wild Dogs from Down Under art group, said she was "truly honoured" to be asked to sit for Ursula.

"It was a surreal experience, to have someone look

at you so intently and try to capture you in that moment," Kerry said.

"The results were phenomenal. I recognise that look in my eyes. It is truly, deeply, me."

In a poetic twist, fellow student Janette Arnold-Collins has chosen Ursula as the subject of her own Archibald entry.

"I was influenced by Ursula's words, well travelled names. I wanted to bring her life experience into the portrait, and render the richness of her onto the canvas," Janette said.

Janette and Ursula's work will be submitted alongside a painting produced by fellow student, Carolyn Henry, and a portrait of Nathan Doeka, created by teacher Peter Biram.

Artwork by the up-and-coming artists and their classmates will be on show at the annual GippsTAFE Student Art Exhibition at Latrobe Regional Gallery from 7-25 November.