

Street Art 'facelift' for Castle lecture theatre



The Castle Lecture Theatre Complex has had a facelift... of the artistic kind! The previously plain façade of the building is now vibrant with colour, thanks to international street artist Fluke, and collaborator Talia Carin.

Visually stunning, the mural uses traditional Māori symbolism to honour the history of Dunedin City and the University of Otago. Imagery of the hongi, the sharing of breath with another, represents shared breath and knowledge, as well as treating a visitor as your own. The modern graffiti style is combined with traditional brush work, which represents the coming together of the contemporary and the traditional.

Fluke and Carin began work on the larger-than-life mural during the Otago University Students Association (OUSA) Art Week, and throughout the artists' activity, passers-by, students and staff enjoyed watching the artwork develop – many stopping to take photos.

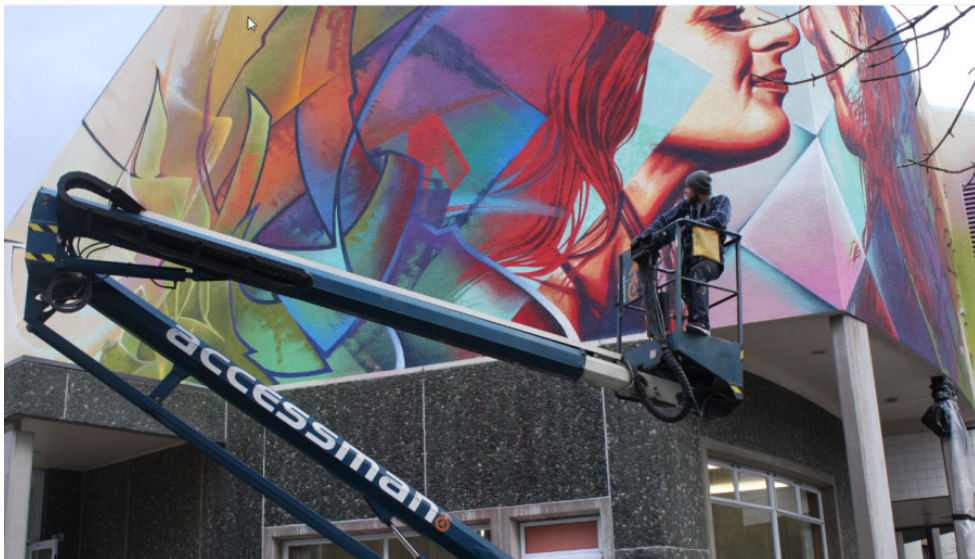
The OUSA and the University of Otago collaborated to bring the street artists to campus, as part of the OUSA-initiated campus beautification project that began in 2013. The project is also supported by the Dunedin Street Art project – which has led to murals painted all over the city, thanks to artists from around Dunedin, New Zealand, and the world. Gordon Harris Paints also donated services and products to the project.

“We liked the idea of aiming high and bringing over a high calibre international artist [...] It builds upon our first commission piece in 2013 by Sean Duffel who has now become well known across New Zealand,” says OUSA Events Manager, Dan Hendra.

“This project will showcase our campus as a vibrant, dynamic and creative space for students, staff and visitors. It will also build upon our already strong bond with Dunedin City,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Harlene Hayne.

The artwork has proven popular on social media, with the hashtag #dunedincampusart showcasing photographs taken by the OUSA, the University, and the Dunedin community.

Photos of the painting project are below:



To see more photos of the campus art, or to submit any of your own, join us on:
Facebook www.facebook.com/otagoalumni
Instagram [@otagoalumni](https://www.instagram.com/otagoalumni)