

# WHS ALUMNI Q&A



Molly Holland '19

## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO SINCE GRADUATING FROM WHS?

I had a Gap Year straight out of school in 2020, which was meant for international travel, but of course due to covid and lockdowns this didn't happen, so I saved hard working in a supermarket and bought my first car. I started a Bachelor of Fine Arts at UNSW Art and Design in Paddington in 2021. My uni experience was far from perfect, with the first two years marred by long commutes, covid lockdowns, mental health struggles and lots of questioning what I was doing. But once I took ceramics as an elective at the end of my second year, I found my passion. Moving to Surry Hills at the beginning of 2023 was one of the best things I have ever done, that is when I really found myself and my independence. I did an Honours year in 2024 which I loved and now miss very much. I had a studio at uni shared with one of my best friends and was making art almost everyday. It was not easy, especially adapting to feedback and trying to put my making thoughts into words for my thesis. But I was so happy with the work that came out of that year and the connections and drive that it gave me. I plan to do a masters, but not yet. I want to experience the world first. I have been accepted to an artists residency in Greece later this year and I had my first solo exhibition at an artist run initiative in Sydney earlier this year. I am always applying for studio residencies and exhibitions as the opportunities arise, I'm often unsuccessful, but that's just how it works. Right now I work full time in a management position at Petbarn. I just want to make art all the time, but at the moment working full-time in a role that allows me to support my team and earn money to support my art practice is the best thing for me to do.

## HOW DID YOUR TIME AT WHS INFLUENCE OR HELP YOU DISCOVER YOUR PASSIONS AND INTERESTS?

The art faculty, with a special shoutout to Mr Bond, allowed me to really be myself, experiment and unwind and discover my passion for art and making.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR TIME AT WHS?

My high school friends and I had some really good laughs.

## DO YOU HAVE AN BUSINESS INSTAGRAM OR WEBSITE THAT YOU WOULD BE HAPPY FOR US TO SHARE?

[www.mollyhollandartist.com](http://www.mollyhollandartist.com) or  
@mollyhollandartist on instagram

## WHAT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE YOU INVOLVED IN AT SCHOOL?

Debating

## WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL?

I think Winmalee really embraced uniqueness of students, and I think there is a teacher/s there for everyone who will understand you and take you under their wing.

