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Farming art at the Railway Garden

By [Brett Williamson](#)

A moving art installation

Amongst the busy foot traffic of the northern end of the Adelaide Railway Station's main thoroughfare a small garden is growing.

Tended by six local, emerging artists, with help from passing members of the public, the garden is a public art experiment offering commuters a chance to break the monotony of their daily travels and become absorbed into a world of imagination.

The growing installation is encased in three metre by three metre Perspex container, and over 12 days will continue to evolve through the works of the artists and pieces contributed by passing members of the public.

"Part of our role is to work with artists that other agencies in the state aren't working with artists, and one of the areas that we've identified as there being little support for is public arts," said Carclew Youth Art's visual arts and digital program manager Annemarie Kohn.

Lead by installation artist Hiromi Tango, the six local youth artists, Laura Wills, Sam Evans, Laura Haigh, Celeste Aldahn, Neha Awasthi and Laura Brenko have been tasked with creating an ephemeral art piece within the theme of gardens.



Hiromi is familiar with the ephemeral or short term display art genre, having hosted similar displays in shopping centres and public areas previously around the world, including displays throughout the Asia-Pacific and United States.

As part of her role as the lead artist, Hiromi must balance the works contributed by each of the youth artists and the passing members of the public to create the final master piece.

"I have to be really aware of everything, all the time, and taking care of the corroborating artists feelings, who are all almost strangers to one another," Hiromi said from the side of the installation at the Adelaide Railway Station.

For local artist Laura Wills, being able to create and display her artwork in such a public place has been a challenging and rewarding experience.

"We've had lots of people smile, look puzzled and asking what is going on," Laura said.

Contributions from passing children have also provided a highlight for Laura.

"Whether it be a child has made a bird for a bird cage or they've made a little strawberry to add to the garden, that sort of thing happens slowly and we can all work together and create a big garden."

Offering an alternative and slightly darker side to the display is Sam Evans, who has constructed a wire bird trap.

"In a lot of gardens I have seen there is usually something that entices birds and generally I would say it is not a cage, but it is water like a fountain or flowers, so I thought I could use those to my advantage," Sam said.

It's a concept the lead artist Hiromi Young welcomes.

"As the godmother of the garden, I celebrate diversity," she responded.

Response to the public space has been varied and mixed, with some fans spending a little too much time at the installation.

"People that are missing their trains on purpose, then another train goes and another train goes and they are still here making work for the space," Annemarie Kohn said.

"It has been a really wonderful environment for a lot of people."

The Adelaide Railway Station Garden installation will be on display from 6 April 2010 till 17 April 2010, just north of the main entrance to the platforms.