

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Announcement of Emmanuel Catholic College Chapel House Saints (Painting / 2D Commission 2021)

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Fine Artist Rachelle Dusting is delighted to announce the much anticipated completion of Public Art tender for Emmanuel Catholic College who recently commissioned eight life-sized portraits of their House Saints. The College Board, together with the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia and EIW Architects, have worked together to see the development of a new chapel projected to launch April 2022. Dusting was awarded the tender after being shortlisted alongside two other local WA artists.

The works were completed using artist quality oil colours and framed to compliment the Chapel's modern interior. Dusting's conceptual approach aimed to reimagine the college's eight House Saints as many existing religious portraits are portrayed with more stoic characteristics. In her proposal, Dusting stated "In these paintings, I want to exhibit contemporary creative thought; bringing to life each Saint by recreating each portrait using younger sitters to capture a more youthful version of the Saint they represent. **This approach highlights the objective to portray the Saints as contemporary everyday people.**" Each sitter was hand selected by Dusting who shared a strong physical likeness to one of the eight saints, photographed in their traditional garments, and approved by the college. The background were painted to reflect the eight House colours of the college. Dusting averaged at least 65 hours at the easel, per painting.

This fresh and vibrant adaptation of the eight House Saints showcases diversity and attempts to connect with those who encounter the artworks in their new light-filled, sacred space. Dusting hopes that each subject painted will serve to inspire students and visitors of the Chapel and be a reminder that each Saint was once their age and made a choice to believe they could make the world a better place.

**For further information, photos and interviews, please contact Rachelle Dusting:  
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**Image Order:** 1 - Saint Thomas More, 2 - Saint Francis of Assisi, 3 - Saint Therese of Lisieux

Saint Thomas More





Saint Francis of Assisi





Saint Therese of Lisieux

