**Transcript: Tony Conway – Visual Arts**

We have studios that enable people to engage in paint, in drawing, in print making, in ceramics, and in photography. With a ceramic studio that’s well set up and resourced for ceramics it allows students to engage in what would be considered to be sculpture. Photojournalism is one of those areas that we have a strength in that allows a photographer to engage in contemporary art photography, but reinforcing that with a specific photojournalistic outlook.

Another student may be more interested in visual art teaching and they could build on their major area, whether that’s painting, drawing, print making, ceramics or photography. During that first year where we’re engaging with that, we’re also introducing all sorts of other ideas about contemporary art practice which really is about hybridising. There are subjects that they need to take that will be outside of that major discipline, and they can change that subject – they don’t have to continue to do the ones that they selected straight up in first year.

The availability of staff or access to staff is one of the big advantages of having a regional art experience. We’ve got a really burgeoning arts precinct in central Bendigo, we’ve got a major gallery that’s one of the envies of the regional gallery network. La Trobe has a very professional gallery opposite in the city, we have another very professional gallery offered on the campus here. So we’re bringing the art to the students. We’re providing also venues for students to experiment in.

Our main mission in the program is to teach them about visual art practice and what that might enable them to do. We have a few notable examples of people graduating with a Bachelor of Visual Arts from our course here and going on and becoming directors of major public galleries.