



## JUNIOR ART SHOWCASE

**Roll up! Roll up! In Visual Arts, Year 1 have recently applied their painting skills to adding life and colour into their vibrant Circus Performer artworks.**

To begin this mixed media unit, we looked at the artworks of the French artists who frequented the popular circuses of Paris in the late 1800s – Toulouse-Lautrec, Seurat and Degas – as well as the later circus paintings of Leger and drawings of American artist, Calder. After brainstorming all the human circus performers we could think of, many students chose to depict a clown or ringmaster, while others created lion-tamers, motorcycle stunt performers, trapeze artists, stilt-walkers, acrobats and more.





Students modelled little hands and feet and faces, that were later painted with a spectrum of skin colours. Children paid special attention to the three-dimensional form of the body, even considering features such as opposing thumbs. We all got really gooey mixing shredded paper with glue to make a papiér mâché torso, legs and arms.

These jolly little characters represent a great leap of perception for children at this age, when most are still representing people as stick figures. Let's be honest - many adults never got past this stage! It's a delight to see students developing confidence in handling a range of materials, working over an extended period to finished a complex piece of art. Each child has a story to tell behind the creative decision-making processes that occurred along the way.

Year 1 students Sohan and E-V summed it up well with their comments: "What I like about Art is it's fun and creative"; "What I like about Art is that it is beautiful when you have finished your painting."

**Mrs Ann McDermott**

*Junior School Specialist Teacher (Visual Arts)*