

CARINE THEVENAU

13 IN THE ANTHROPOCENE.



PICTURED ABOVE - LEYLA

What is it like to be 13 years old in 2024? A time period that can be described as the Anthropocene, an epoch that recognizes the overwhelming impact humanity has had on our planet. This is a world that includes the climate crisis, artificial intelligence and social media. The tempo of life is fast and at times, seems erratic and nonsensical.

Being thirteen is also an age that is defined by fluctuation and confusion. Thirteen emerges as a mysterious and wondrous space between childhood and adulthood. It is characterised by rapid physiological and psychological change caused by cascading hormones that influence neural pathways associated with risk-taking, exploring autonomy, identity, and seeking out novel experiences. In 2024, is the experience of being 13 different than previous generations? Photographer Carine Thevenau asks our future people about their experience in the world, during a time of significant disruption and uncertainty.

The photographic series captures the portraits of Australian thirteen-year-olds. The portraits are photographed on black and white film and hand-painted using watercolour pigments. The technique of hand-colouring photographs emerged during the late 19th century, alongside the invention of photography and the emergence of the Industrial Revolution. We are currently living through a time period described as the Fourth Industrial Revolution where artificial intelligence is able to construct and manipulate photographic projections of ourselves. Through hand-painting the portraits Carine pauses our contemporary teenagers in time, referencing past periods of shifting tides, whilst emphasizing the consistent inevitability of transitional change.





Ok, my name is Vivi and I'm thirteen years old. I play hockey and guitar and I love drawing and reading. The best parts of being thirteen is that I am between still being a kid and being more grown up, so you get the best of both worlds. I want to drive, but it looks scary. I am thinking of becoming an illustrator or a writer, but I also like the idea of being a psychologist.

I want to do things for the better like for climate change. I would like to join a charity or become an activist in some regard.

I'd love to travel around Europe and write a book. I am part of a fiction writers club right now. I use art to escape. When you're in the zone time flies and you don't think about anything. It's almost like meditating as I become so focused that I don't realise anything else is going on.

I'm not sure how artificial intelligence will turn out - robots taking over the world! At school, we debate about it being both positive and negative.

I don't use social media but my friends and I text a lot. Phones can get overwhelming, but they are easy to put down. Social media can be used for inspiration and ideas.

In the future, I see climate change and poverty as big issues. The climate crisis is one of the most pressing issues. I hope that it can be resolved. I ride my bike every day to school, and we have a worm farm for compost. I don't use glitter and I turn off the lights and am careful with how much water I use. I worry about rising sea levels. To remedy poverty, I hope that in the future people who need more have more and people who need less have less.



My name is Arthur and I am 13 years old. One day I hope to become famous. My ideal occupation would be to become a surgeon.

I like to go shopping with my friends and I listen to music in my spare time. I use my cell phone to communicate with my friends. I use social media to watch videos and to become famous, but I spend too much time on it and this affects me negatively. Social media is important to me, but I could live without it.

I hope that artificial intelligence can be helpful, but if we rely on it we are not realising the best of ourselves.

I am concerned about the climate crisis and feel that somehow we need to stop it.

The best thing about being thirteen is that I am finally a teenager. The worst thing is that I still can't do a lot of things.



I am Claire Harvey. I am 13. I like doing things with my family and one day I hope to be rich. When I am older I hope to become a hairdresser.

My friends and I like playing Roblox (video games) and we use our phones to connect. We use social media to socialise but also to entertain ourselves. I have had a phone since I was 12. For me, having a phone is positive.

When I think about the environment and the climate crisis, I believe that the Earth has been through many phases, such as the Ice Age and that it is going through another inevitable change now.

The best thing about being thirteen is gaining freedom. The worst thing is that the workload at school increases. Overall, I am excited about the future.



I'm Lucas and I'm currently sitting on the age of 13. I go to the library in my spare time and I'm quite fond of books. My favourite genre is sci-fi and mystery.

I find it quite a difficult time to be alive because your body is going through changes and sometimes when you try to tell people how you're feeling they don't really understand.

Some of the changes like the hormones running through your body are OK. I feel a bit more isolated and want to connect to friend groups a lot more. At 13 you kind of enter the wild a little bit more and it's quite scary because you may not have all the tools yet that you need to make it through this world.

I'm not sure about Artificial intelligence just yet. In a couple of years, it could come in handy because if we ever come up with another war they could send drones to drop in or other ammunition.

I don't think about climate change much, but it's been getting hotter and it's been affecting the way I feel around certain times of the day. Sometimes I just feel more frustrated when it's a bit warmer. To help the environment I don't spray deodorant which also helps people with asthma.

In the future, I want to get a job because I don't like sitting around watching people do all the work. I want to be the one that helps. I am good at writing, so I probably want to be a writer. There is also a lot of crime so I also want to be a policeman. I look forward to being able to help my community.

I don't feel so hopeful about the future because of the way people behave when they disagree with things, for example in Israel.



My name is Mazaya. I am 13. I hope to become a successful woman. I would love to become a model, a business woman, a doctor or a designer. I am passionate about visual art, science and fashion. I hope to make a lot of money. I feel really hopeful about my future.

In my free time I hang out at the mall or play video games with friends. I communicate with my friends using my cell phone, talk at school or use social media. Social media can be positive because we can use it to be creative. It can be negative because of bullying and spreading false information.

Global warming is a big concern for me because greenhouse emissions blanket the earth, trapping the heat and this leads to the earth heating up. I feel we have to prevent the climate crisis by planting more trees and not cutting down trees illegally. I plant lots of trees and carefully look after them to make the air cooler.

Equality means that as human beings we are all the same. We all have the same values. We all have the same rights and should all receive the same respect. We should all have the same access to opportunities to achieve success.

The worst thing about being 13 is that I am no longer a child who can play freely because I have so much to do.



My name is Feliks and i am 13 years old. I am passionate about music, fashion, friendships, drama and food. My dream is to act on stage and screen.

I am scared of heights and elevators. I try not to think about the bad things as it worries me.

My friends and I go into town (Fremantle) we watch movies, walk around, eat bad food and go to the library. We communicate usually by text or Facetime, but sometimes it's face-to-face.

I think Ai is pretty cool. How someone managed to engineer something like that takes talent.

I don't use social media and therefore it doesn't affect me positively or negatively. If I did use it I would post something fun, or something emotional and use it for keeping in touch. It can be used to express yourself.

The climate crisis concerns me as not enough people are worried about it. I worry about the ice caps melting. So many polar bears, penguins, seals and walruses are dying.

Equality is important because everyone should feel loved, safe and respected no matter where you came from and always being included.



My name is Merrita and I am thirteen years old. My dream is to travel the world.

I am scared of spiders and snakes.

I like to play board games with my friends. We communicate in Chinese.

Social media is for communication and for fun. It is not that important to me and it affects me negatively as I am always looking at my phone.

I can feel the climate is changing and it doesn't make me feel very well. I mostly worry about the air pollution and I save cans and bottles for recycling.

I feel hopeful to get a job in the future.

M E R R I T A



My name is Faith. I live in Perth and I am 13. I like music and dancing. I like hip hop and I used to do netball but not anymore. I moved from Sydney to Perth when I was 10 years old. Perth is ok.

My friends and I communicate using our phones. We message each other on Instagram, Tik Tok or Snap Chat (social media). Social media can be annoying but it can be ok.

I feel artificial intelligence is a bad thing as I would rather do something myself and not have a computer do it for me.

Equality is important as everyone deserves to be treated decently.

Thirteen is exciting as it's the first time I have had my own phone. The worst thing about being 13 for girls, is getting a period.

In general, I feel hopeful about the future.

F A I T H



Hi my name is Audrey and I am 13 years old.

I am excited and motivated by my friends and family. I also feel inspired by food, as well as winning awards or games. I dream of becoming a musician, a marine biologist, a professional netball player or any form of artist. For my first job I would like to work in a cafe.

Not being able to see my family or play netball scares me.

I think Artificial Intelligence can be used for good and bad, but it is revolutionary.

I feel hopeful about the future as good things are growing. Other things could be a bit concerning like climate change and war continuing.

Social media does not affect me much, but it could be positive if I had it because it can help me talk to more people. For example, I have iMessage but lots of people I know don't have iPhones and use Snapchat instead, but I don't have that so I can't contact them apart from emails, but no one really checks their emails.

I don't think that the climate crisis is being handled well and people like the government should be doing more about it. I worry about the sea water levels, temperature, coral bleaching, habitat loss from destruction of the animal's homes and too much rubbish pollution.

The best thing about being 13 is gaining privileges and more people noticing you for talents and being given more opportunities for things.



Hi I'm Luca and I am 13 years old. I live in Fremantle and am very academically aligned. Being thirteen is an age where you can integrate with everybody. Whether someone is substantially older or much younger than you, you can get along with them very well.

I like any opportunity to overcomplicate things. I like to work on projects over a period of time and create an outcome. For example, I like fundraising, building momentum and reaching a deadline.

I don't like not knowing what is going to happen in the future. I like to know all the details about things I have to do, particularly things I am not so fond of doing.

My friends and I are in a circus troupe. I am very passionate about the circus troupe. It is not what you think of when you consider a team sport, but in a circus troupe you work together and you can't trust someone more than when you are willing to stand on their hands.

I think we should take the technology of Artificial Intelligence slowly. Everyone should be aware of what they are using and the consequences of the technology.

I use my school iPad to message my friends and a basic phone to communicate with my parents. I am not on social media. Social media does not affect my life. If I was using it, I would be interested in knowing what types of things people like me are doing.

The climate crisis is not something we should put aside and come back to later on. I worry about ocean pollution.

I feel that equality, where everyone is given the same opportunities, is happening more than in the past, but could be still be improved.

I am hopeful about the future. I think we can do really well as humans.

L U C A

Special thanks to Centre for Stories and participating students, including Arthur, Mazaya, Merrita, Claire, Lucas and Faith.

Also thank you to Vivi, Feliks, Luca, Audrey and Leyla.