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Angel Calderon

Mr LANGUILLER (Derrimut)—I commend the art exhibition entitled *Uncertainty, Creativity and Art*, which is presented by Angel Calderon, an artist and academic of Guatemalan background. The theme of disappearance is manifested in his paintings in remembrance of the life of his 21-year-old brother Vinicio, who disappeared on the evening of 20 July 1982 when he was walking home after refereeing a game of basketball. In his paintings Angel Calderon seeks to find common ground in the spirit and living experiences of Indigenous people in both Australia and Guatemala—from their culture, colour, traditions and the long-lasting memories of their ancestors.

He also seeks to express through his paintings the memory of formative years in Guatemala, particularly the years of student activism and armed struggle. ‘Painting’, he says, ‘has become a happy medium to live with, a great way to share experiences and feel connected with people’.

Calderon also said:

The art of exile for me is a way to find an explanation around conflict, understand its meaning and implications for everyone who has experienced it. It also enables me to survive, and to strive for a broader explanation about its consequences for society in general.

I thank all those who assisted with the exhibition, including Dr Philip Darby of the Institute of Postcolonial Studies; Sarah Blatchford from Taylor and Francis Australasia; Lara McKinley, a photographer from Oxfam Australia; Paul Noonan from RMIT University; and Dr Rod Ling from the University of Newcastle.