



**The eye-catching mural (above) was the work of Lurnea High School students and their artwork was exhibited in the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation's display.**

Pictures: CHRIS MCKEEN



# Art as therapy

**LOUISE GOODWIN**

THE experience of being an exhibited artist finished for a group of Lurnea High School students last month.

The 21 students, who were young refugees, took part in the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation's *Subtext: Art for Literacy* exhibition, based at the CarriageWorks in Eveleigh.

The centrepiece of the text-based exhibition was their 25m canvas, which was done in collaboration with political artist Locust Jones.

The students from East Turkistan, Iraq, Vietnam, Sudan, Argentina and Thailand reflected on old and new identities, and violence and peace, by creating art over an underlay of text.

Lurnea High School student Auday Al-Sheik said the process was therapeutic.

"It felt good, it felt like I was letting something out," Auday said.

"People are going to see it now and everybody can know what I feel."

The artwork was exhibited alongside another

17 established artists, including Jon Campbell, Simryn Gill, Michael Lindeman and Noel McKenna.

The Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation's exhibition raised funds for their RAS program through the sale of selected works.

United Nations Ambassador for the Global Atlas of Human Rights, Prashanth Shanmugan, and Lurnea High School student Auday Al-Sheik spoke at the exhibition opening.