



PHOTO: DYLAN DE FLEURIOT

Jono Hornby (left) and Keagan Dunn in front of the mural painted for the movie.

STREET ART: Local students compete in Berlin contest

Dreaming up the ideal city

SHELAGH MCLOUGHLIN

THEY made a movie about painting street art on an alley wall. Now they're off to Germany to help dream up an ideal city with a group of other young people from Europe and other countries.

Durban graphic design students Jono Hornby and Keagan Dunn are flying to Berlin on today as guests of the German government after entering a film made for a class assignment in a competition.

The 60-second movie was made with four classmates: Kyle Anderson, Mngqobi Sithole, Njabulo Mkhize and Dylan de Almeida.

The competition they entered is being held as part of a 10-day summer camp in Mellowpark, Berlin, and is organised by the Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development, which sponsors youth urban development projects. At the camp, young people will plan and build their ideal city with the help of construction and design experts.

Hornby, who matriculated from Carter High School in Pietermaritzburg, said the film was made earlier this year as a community activism project in the group's third year curriculum at Durban University of Technology.

"My sister [who lives in Germany] told me about the competition and suggested we enter it," he said.

In the movie a girl releases doves,

which change into books. It was made from a series of still photos taken of street art painted on a wall in a grimy alley in Umbilo.

"It's next to a bottle store where people used to sit around and drink," said Hornby. "We planned and storyboarded the project so we knew what imagery we wanted to paint. The doves are a metaphor for freedom; they morph into books to represent the freedom education can bring."

The students painted the mural a few brushstrokes at a time, taking photographs of the wall from left to right as they worked. Editing was then done in Photoshop.

Hornby said they were inspired by Blu, a collective of artists who use street art to make animated films as a form of social commentary. The project took about nine days to complete.

Hornby, who paints murals in his spare time for profit and pleasure, said the painting has elicited a good response.

"It's still there — it hasn't been defaced, which is quite weird in Durban."

The prize the group stands to win is 1 000 euros, but the two artists heading to Germany today are already flying.

- To see the film type 'word on the street - young energies' into Google.com
- features@witness.co.za