
Whistler's Mother

NGV INTERNATIONAL

26 MAR 2016 – 19 JUN 2016

GENERAL VISIT ENTRY FEES APPLY.

PRE-BOOKED SCHOOL GROUPS HAVE FREE ENTRY.



James McNeill Whistler
Arrangement in grey and black no. 1
 (Portrait of the artist's mother) 1871
 Musée d'Orsay, Paris © RMN-Grand Pal-ais
 (musée d'Orsay) / Jean Schormans

The National Gallery of Victoria will present one of the top ten most recognisable and iconic paintings in the world, the exceptional and historic *Portrait of the artist's mother*, 1871 painted by master artist James McNeill Whistler. The exhibition marks the first time that the work has travelled to Australia and will be exhibited exclusively at the NGV, on loan from the Musée d'Orsay, Paris, one of the foremost art galleries in the world. The exhibition is accompanied by contextual works from the NGV International collection.

Whistler's Mother will be unlike any other exhibition presented by the NGV. The painting will be explored from various perspectives ranging from its volatile reception; the conservation story behind its making; who his mother was; and Whistler's life and career.

The NGV will also produce a short film regarding the painting which will further immerse visitors with the work. The history of the painting surpasses even its imposing physical presence, measuring 144.3cm tall and 162.5cm wide.

Thirty-second President of the United States Franklin Roosevelt was so taken with the painting that in 1934 he devised a design of it for a Mother's Day stamp – catapulting the work into lasting public consciousness.

The NGV has its own associations with *Portrait of the artist's mother*, before now unexplored. The Collection holds a similar Goodwin chair which the painting's sitter Anna Whistler sits on, plus an edition of the etching *Black Lion Wharf* 1859 which is depicted in the background of the famous painting. The NGV will also reveal the remarkable influence Whistler has had on some of Australia's key artists of the period, offering various avenues to connect with the exhibition.

Student Programs

Introductory Talk

All levels

An unprecedented opportunity for students of all levels to engage in an in-depth exploration of one of the world's iconic paintings. In a viewing and discussion of the exhibition students will 'meet' the artist and his mother, discover what inspired and influenced the artist, explore the processes and techniques used by the artist to make and display his work, and learn about how the work has been viewed by the public since it was made.

Cost \$7 (1hr)

Collection connections

All levels

Make a viewing and discussion of *Whistler's Mother* the starting point for thematic and inquiry based learning about other works in the NGV collection. Suggest your own theme or question or consider 'what is portraiture?' 'families and relationships', 'emotions in art', 'every picture tells a story', 'elements of art and design' or 'what is abstraction'?

Cost \$13 (2hrs)

Celebrate art with celebrity artists

All levels

What makes a great artist and a great artwork? After exploring the world of Whistler and *Whistler's Mother*, discover some of the celebrity artists, including Rembrandt, Tiepolo, Monet and Picasso in the collection of the National Gallery of Victoria and explore the ideas and stories behind their artworks.

Cost \$13 (2hrs)

Inspired English

All levels

Explore a variety of writing genres inspired by the evocative beauty of Whistler's work and stories related to the artist's life.

Cost \$7 (1hr) / \$13 (2hrs)

VCE Connections

VCE Art and VCE Studio Arts

The exhibition *Whistler's mother* is a rich resource for all units of the VCE Art and VCE Studio Arts studies. Specialist sessions focusing on the key knowledge/skills for Units 1-4 of each study are available. Specific content can be discussed with an NGV Educator but possibilities include:

VCE Art Units 1-4

- Analytical frameworks – the formal, personal, cultural and contemporary
- Using art commentaries and art language
- Sources of inspiration for art making
- Art materials, techniques and processes

VCE Studio Arts Units 1-4

- Developing art ideas, including sources of inspiration, methods of communicating ideas, observations and experiences
- Interpretation of art ideas and use of art language
- Art practices in particular art forms including characteristics and properties of particular materials and techniques
- Influences on artists including historical and cultural context
- Ideas and styles in works of art, including how artists communicate ideas and meanings
- Artistic practices, including development of aesthetic qualities and style in the work of individual artists
- Legal obligations and ethical considerations involved in use of work of other artists in making new artwork
- Methods and considerations involved in the preparation, presentation and conservation of works of art for exhibition

Cost \$7 (1hr) / \$13 (2hrs)

Bookings and enquiries

03 8620 2340, 12–5pm weekdays

edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au

ngv.vic.gov.au/learn/schools-programs/School-Programs-Booking

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