

HABITAT

NGV Studio | FREE | 8 – 30 September 2012



A group of young emerging artists will team up with established artistic mentors to occupy NGV Studio in September as part of *HABITAT*.

HABITAT is a project of the Rudder Exchange Visual Arts Mentoring Partnerships (REVAMP), which sees young people with a passion for art working with their chosen mentor, who is an established visual artist.

Mentors and mentees will work alongside each other at NGV Studio, combining their skills and knowledge to present a range of

different artistic processes including hand drawn and stop motion animation, installation, digital imaging, multimedia, mixed media drawing, painting and sculpture.

For example, *Portrait Booth* will see a mentor draw life-like portraits in charcoal while her mentee draws abstract portraits of the emotional aura of a subject. Visitors to NGV Studio are encouraged to drop by the 20 Minute Portrait Booth, one of *HABITAT*'s many public programs.

Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV said: "This is a unique opportunity for young artists to gain invaluable experience working alongside established artists. It will be fascinating to watch these partnerships develop throughout the exhibition and see the creative process taking place in the space. The NGV is proud to be supporting these promising young artists."

There are four new partnerships this year, with all artists from the 2011 program extending their creative dialogue in 2012 to participate at NGV Studio.

HABITAT is part of the 2012 Rudder Exchange Visual Arts Mentoring Partnerships run by the Artful Dodgers Studios, Jesuit Social Services and is one of Australia's leading community cultural development programs.

Juan Davila, REVAMP artistic patron, said: "Rudder is an exuberant celebration of artists with a desire to share their artistic journey to date. Visiting the Rudder Studios gave me the opportunity to witness first-hand the importance of having an experienced artist to work with, and how this enriches both the mentee's and mentor's practice."

"It is an opportunity to contribute to strengthening the cultural base of our city," said Mentor Annee Miron.

Mentee Kati Eyles said: "I have found having a visual art mentor to be an incredibly valuable experience which will benefit me for years to come."

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NGV Studio is a contemporary exhibition and event space that provides opportunities for audience and artist engagement. It promotes new and experimental art forms, encouraging innovation and experimentation in content, context, interpretation and display.

For further information about NGV Studio and *HABITAT*, please visit ngv.vic.gov.au. NGV Studio is open Sun–Wed, 10am–5pm and Thu–Sat, 10am–10pm. Entry is free. *HABITAT* is a collaboration between the NGV and Artful Dodgers Studios.

HABITAT Public Programs

Drop By: 20 Minute Portrait Booth

Every Mon & Tue from 10–25 Sep, 12–3pm (excluding Mon 17 September)

On Monday and Tuesday afternoons, NGV Studio invites the public to pose as subjects for the *HABITAT* artists' 20 minute portraiture sessions. Bring along your favourite songs on mp3 or CD to play while you are drawn. Bookings at the Portrait Booth or <http://artfuldodgers.tv/rudder/> Get involved with this exciting and inspirational project!

FREE, NGV Studio, Flinders Street, Federation Square

Drop By: Scaredy Monstars stitching

Sat 8 & Fri 14 Sep, 2-4pm

Drop by and stitch a Scaredy Monstar, led by *HABITAT* artist Jacqueline Black.

FREE, NGV Studio, Flinders Street, Federation Square

Opening Event

Thu 13 Sep, 6pm

Join us to celebrate the opening of *HABITAT*.

FREE, NGV Studio, Flinders Street, Federation Square

Drop By: Falling cardboard weaving

Fri 14 & 21 Sep, 2-4pm

Drop by and take part in weaving cardboard for *Falling*, led by *HABITAT* artist Annee Miron.

FREE, NGV Studio, Flinders Street, Federation Square

NGV Live: Animations & Music

Thu 20 Sep, 6.30pm

Join us for a special live presentation of the *HABITAT* artists' animations, accompanied by a live experimental score.

FREE, NGV Studio, Flinders Street, Federation Square

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Image caption: Rudder Exchange Visual Arts Mentoring Partnerships 2012

Photograph: Forest Keegel

About Rudder Exchange Visual Art Mentoring Partnerships

The Artful Dodgers Studios is a program of Jesuit Social Services, one of Australia's leading community cultural development programs. It offers young people aged 15-28, who may face barriers to education and employment, the opportunity to work alongside artists and other creative professionals in a safe and vibrant arts space.

REVAMP encourages a diversity of young and emerging artists to apply to become mentees. They must be passionate about visual arts, wanting to explore a visual arts career, be between the ages of 18-27 and have a current health care card. Mentees have individual spaces in the open plan Rudder studio and there are regular meetings of the whole group as well as the mentoring partnerships meeting weekly. The Rudder facilitator also runs workshops about the business of being an artist and offers additional support to the mentees.

For more information on REVAMP, contact Forest Keegel on 03 9415 8700 or forest.keegel@jss.org.au