

TEES: Exposing Melbourne's T-shirt culture

22 November 2012

NGV Studio | FREE | 7 December 2012 – 17 February 2013



This summer the NGV will celebrate the ubiquitous T-shirt, with a new NGV Studio exhibition, *TEES: Exposing Melbourne's T-shirt culture*.

A collaboration with creative agency *Just Another* and the world's only T-shirt journal *T-world*, the exhibition dissects Melbourne's passion for T-shirts through the eyes of avid collector, Eddie Zammit. *TEES* will showcase some of Melbourne's most influential artists, brands and designers.

From iconic Melbourne T-shirts of the past and present featuring brands like BURN, Renegade and Schwipe to T-shirt souvenirs from music concerts and sporting events, visitors to the exhibition will be exposed to Melbourne's T-shirt culture.

Tony Ellwood, NGV Director, said NGV Studio has an exciting program to offer visitors over the summer as part of the *TEES* exhibition.

"We are thrilled to be hosting a range of HIT+RUN events, featuring live screen-printing in the exhibition space where

visitors can not only witness the printing process behind the T-shirt, but also take a limited-edition printed T-shirt home with them," Mr Ellwood said.

Visitors to *TEES* will gain an insight into the unsung heroes of the T-shirt world including independent T-shirt stores, local screen-printers and the people behind the T-shirts – the fans.

David Hurlston, Curator, Australian Art, said T-shirts have become an important part of Melbourne's street culture.

"For Eddie Zammit, T-shirts are an obsession. He owns over 4,000 T-shirts – that's enough tees to wear one a day for over a decade. He also stores them alphabetically by brand, color and design," Mr Hurlston said.

Zammit, who has curated major T-shirt exhibitions in New York and Sydney, has never unleashed anything on his hometown to this extent.

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“T-shirts are without a doubt the most universally popular item of clothing, their appeal crosses all divides of age, gender, nationality, race, and religion. This will be a celebration of Melbourne’s T-shirt culture – past, present and future,” Mr Zammit said.

NGV Studio is a contemporary exhibition and event space that provides opportunities for audience and artist engagement. For further information about NGV Studio and *TEES*, please visit ngv.vic.gov.au. NGV Studio is open Sun–Wed, 10am–5pm and Thu–Sat, 10am–10pm. Entry is free.

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Image caption:

TEES: Exposing Melbourne’s T-shirt culture at NGV Studio
Photography by Nicole Reed (A Shot Away)

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