



MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

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New web series inspired by the NGV's Australian Impressionism exhibition celebrates contemporary outdoor painting practices and the legacy of 'en plein air'



4 May 2021: A new web series produced by the National Gallery of Victoria celebrates and explores the continuing legacy of painting outdoors - *en plein air* - and its impact on the practices of contemporary Australian artists working today, including Adam Pyett, Mary Tonkin, Lyn-Al Young and the Victorian Artists Society.

The video series is inspired by the NGV-exclusive exhibition, *She-Oak and Sunlight: Australian Impressionism*, a large-scale presentation of 270 works by some of the most widely recognisable and celebrated Australian Impressionists, including Tom Roberts,

Frederick McCubbin, Jane Sutherland, Arthur Streeton, Charles Conder, Clara Southern, John Russell and E Phillips Fox.

Tony Ellwood AM, Director, NGV, said: 'Throughout history, the natural world has always been a source of inspiration for artists, but especially for the Impressionists. Painting outdoors enabled these artists to capture his or her environment with immediacy and a freshness that was hard to replicate indoors. This NGV-commissioned series shall reveal how the technique of painting *en plein air* and capturing the beauty of our natural surrounds continue to be a source of inspiration for artists working today.'

The web series features contemporary landscape painter **Adam Pyett**, whose practice deeply explores the very nature of painting using Australian landscapes as a subject to explore relationships between light and colour. Also featured is Victorian-based contemporary landscape painter **Mary Tonkin**, who works entirely *en plein air* in the dense bush on her family's farm at Kalorama which is surrounded by the Dandenong Ranges National Park. Mary paints extraordinarily detailed compositions, seeking to convey sensations and emotions that arise in response to the surrounding bushland, grappling with changing light over the weeks and months creating the work.

Celebrating her practice of painting on Country, fashion designer and Gunnai, Wiradjuri, Gunditjmara and Yorta Yorta woman, **Lyn-Al Young** is also featured in the series. The episode will celebrate Lyn-Al painting outdoors at her home in Warrandyte, Victoria and the nearby Currawong Bush Park where she takes inspiration from nature and paints directly onto silk textiles, which are then designed into vibrant one-off wearable art pieces, each one telling a story connected to herself, her family and her Country.

The series will also spotlight the thriving creative community of the **Victorian Artists Society**, where the Australian Impressionist painters including Frederick McCubbin, Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton formally gathered during the late 1800s. This episode will feature today's members of the Society who continue the *en plein air* legacy by gathering monthly to paint outdoors at locations across Victoria such as Mentone Beach, Merri Creek and further afield in regional areas of the state. The video will also highlight the contemporary practices of Society members today and the diversity of programming including annual exhibitions and oil, still life, portraiture, and life group painting classes.

[WATCH THE SERIES ON THE NGV CHANNEL](#)

PART 1 ON NGV CHANNEL WEDNESDAY 12 MAY: ADAM PYETT

PART 2 ON NGV CHANNEL WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE: MARY TONKIN

PART 3 ON NGV CHANNEL WEDNESDAY 7 JULY: VICTORIAN ARTISTS SOCIETY

PART 4 ON NGV CHANNEL WEDNESDAY 11 AUGUST: LYN-AL YOUNG



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She-Oak and Sunlight: Australian Impressionism is now showing until 22 August 2021 at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Fed Square, Melbourne. Further information is available via the [NGV website](#).

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IMAGES: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3i2tn4hfxwnfrvl/AABlrDib0jdQcn4TLmjLFn9Ra?dl=0>

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