



## MEDIA RELEASE

### NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

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## VCE excellence shines at Top Arts 2023

The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia | 17 March – 9 July 2023 | Free entry



**17 March 2023:** Opening on 17 March at The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Top Arts 2023 returns for its 29th year, showcasing the talent of Victoria's emerging creatives who have excelled in VCE art subjects. Top Arts 2023 celebrates the creativity, vision and commitment of 38 emerging artists and designers from across the state who have used art to bring their passions and concerns into sharp focus. The exhibition showcases works that are provocative and introspective, spanning themes of cultural and gender identity, vulnerability, society and nature.

Highlights from the exhibition include Minh Dang's striking portrait *Sorrow 2022* which depicts the artist's friend and reflects on the challenges of a young queer man growing up in rural Victoria.

Dagoman, Wardaman and Gurindji woman Jasmine Glass has produced three woven baskets using traditional weaving techniques, reflecting the young artist's connection to Country, her cultural heritage, and the long lineage of Aboriginal women who maintained the practice before her.

Mildura's Eden Muster's playful costume designs are reminiscent of childhood nostalgia and dress-up, intending to return audiences to a time of youth and impulsiveness set far from the pressures of adult life.

Hugo Martin's *Father and Poppy Series 2022* delves into family relationships, shared history and the sense of connection throughout time, painting hopeful and enjoyable scenes of the artist's family across three generations.

For Jack Snow-Viener, the *Sulfur* photographic series overlays images, asking viewers to contemplate their own notions of what is conventionally beautiful.

Tony Ellwood AM, Director, NGV said, 'The annual *Top Arts* exhibition demonstrates the astounding talent of Victoria's young artists and designers as they contemplate the world around them following a challenging period of disruption. The level of technical and conceptual complexity present in this year's exhibition is a testament to the resilience of young artists and we are proud to continue to foster their work, perspectives and experiences at the NGV.'

Officeworks General Manager Marketing & Insights, Jessica Richmond, said: 'As NGV's new Major Partner of Top Arts 2023, we are proud to be supporting the Victorian students who will be exhibiting this year and showcasing arts education more broadly. It will be inspiring to see how these young artists harness their creativity through various mediums. We see a real synergy in our alignment to Top Arts.'

**Top Arts 2023** will be on display from 17 March – 9 July 2023 at *The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia, Federation Square, Flinders St & Russell St, Melbourne*. Free entry. Further information is available via the [NGV website](#).

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#### IMAGES:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/clfo7m1e46g9cync6n0g9tjkt/h?dl=0&rlkey=wz8z12a33o5it9uiketvh3aea>

#### Image credit:

**Minh Dang**, *Sorrow* 2022, Swan Hill College, Swan Hill. © Minh Dang; **Jack Snow-Viener**, *Sulfur Series* 2022 (detail), St Michaels Grammar School, St Kilda. © Jack Snow-Viener; **Eden Muster**, *Ballerina Costume* 2022, Mildura Senior College, Mildura. © Eden Muster; **Jasmine Glass**, *Women's Weaving* 2022, St Catherines School, Toorak. © Jasmine Glass; **Emma Tripp**, *Bigger Picture* 2022, Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School, Ivanhoe. © Emma Tripp

MAJOR PARTNERS



EDUCATION SUPPORTERS



Top Arts is part of the VCE Season of Excellence

#### Artist list:

Josef Arpula	Swinburne Senior Secondary College, Hawthorn
Casper Plum Bergman Carthew	Fitzroy High School (Wurun Senior Campus), Fitzroy North
Mae Czechowski	Swinburne Senior Secondary College, Hawthorn
Chloe Chen	Glen Waverley Secondary College, Glen Waverley
Minh Dang	Swan Hill College, Swan Hill
Keira Davis	Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, Southbank
Ginger Dewar	Fitzroy High School (Wurun Senior Campus), Fitzroy North
Michael Fisher	Bialik College, Hawthorn East

Bailey Florence	St Kevin's College, Toorak
Clare Flynn	St Michael's Grammar School, St Kilda
Arty Foulkes	Belmont High School, Geelong
Jasmine Glass	St Catherines School, Toorak
Celeste Yun Hang	Firbank Grammar School, Brighton
Kelly Hirschmann	Cathedral College, Wangaratta
Polly Hutchins	Padua College, Mornington
Grace Kennedy	Caulfield Grammar School, St Kilda
Hugo Martin	Melbourne Grammar School, South Yarra
Minnie Morley	Firbank Girls Grammar, Brighton
Emma Murphy	Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School, Ivanhoe
Eden Muster	Mildura Senior College, Mildura
Jya-Ruby Nation	Mallacoota P/12 College, Mallacoota
Kean Ngooi	Box Hill High School, Box Hill
Elio Ongarato	Melbourne Grammar School, Melbourne
Beth Pert	Melbourne Girls ' College, Richmond
Lilith Pett	Lauriston Girls' School, Armadale
Miranda Plowman	Virtual School Victoria, Thornbury
Rufus Punton	Portland Secondary College, Portland
Harper Reilly	Camberwell High School, Canterbury
Kylah Ross	Salesian College, Sunbury
Amy Seymour	Catholic Regional College Melton
Stephanie Smith	Lauriston Girls School, Armadale
Jack Snow-Viener	St Michaels Grammar School, St Kilda
Milo Strangio	Fitzroy High School (Wurun Senior Campus), Fitzroy North
Emma Tripp	Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School, Ivanhoe
Lola Vincent	Northcote High School, Northcote
Clio Waldegrave-Knight	Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Wodonga
Jevons Wang	Mentone Grammar, Mentone
Nicole Zhao	Lauriston Girls' School, Armadale