



Top Arts 2025

VCE focus
questions

NATIONAL GALLERY
OF VICTORIA NGV




Top Arts focus questions

Top Arts presents exceptional and thought-provoking work. The art exhibited is produced by students who have completed art subjects as part of their Victorian Certificate of Education. Drawn from a range of media, topics, schools and students, Top Arts is part of the annual Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority's VCE Season of Excellence.

Make your way around the exhibition space and use these questions to deepen your understanding of the artworks.




Codie Carter
A feast of flesh and fruit, 2024
© Codie Carter

Explore the work

1. Choose an artwork that you would like to analyse.

- Jot down some initial thoughts about how you respond and relate to the work.
- What makes it stand out to you and what can you learn from it?

2. Pick a different work.

- What concept is the artist communicating?
- How have they used materials and techniques to express it?

3. What inspiration have you gained from the artworks on display?

- Comment on new ideas, mediums, or techniques you'd like to explore over the coming year.



Maya Shookry
Non, 2024
© Maya Shookry

Have a go

4. Interview a person whose life is quite different from your own, show them the work from the exhibition and gather their responses.

- Are they different?
- In what way?
- Why do you think that is?

5. Think about how artists use materials and techniques by watching exhibitor interviews on the **Top Arts 2025 Hub**. Listen to how the exhibitors discuss their experimentation, play and use of materials and techniques.

- How does the artist express their relationship to the materials within their art?
- How have they explained their choices and the reasons for their methods?
- What different techniques are observed?



◀ Ethan Mangopoulos
My life, 2024
© Ethan Mangopoulos

Portfolio preparation

A portfolio is a living and changing collection of your work. It reflects your range, skills, experiences, and inspiration. It can help you the artist gain access to grants and residencies and is often an entry requirement for tertiary education courses.

As an artist, you need to know what a strong portfolio should include.

Please use these prompts to help spur on your creativity as you prepare for VCE and your creative career.



What artforms excite you?

Is it traditional forms like sculpture, oils, and pottery, or new forms like digital painting and animation?



What do you like?

Understanding your passions, ideas, artists, and creations will help you find your creative voice.



Where do you find inspiration?

Galleries, museums, online, in person, books?



How do you communicate your creative process?

Clear communication of your artistic intentions is key to producing a strong portfolio.



Your future in the arts

At Deakin's School of Communication and Creative Arts we recognise that it's difficult to go from zero to hero in a creative space without support. That's why we focus on helping our creators and storytellers develop confidence to take their craft into the world. At Deakin, we nurture your talent, challenge you to be better, and connect you with fellow students who share your passion and energy.

Find out more:



Questions to consider with your careers practitioner when choosing further study

- What do you want your artistic career to look like?
- What kind of impact would you like your work to have?
- What kind of techniques will help grow your practice?
- Will you need specific facilities?
- Where do you want to take your learning?

Indigo Gordon
Membrane wulf, 2024
© Indigo Gordon



'I have always had a passion for creativity and communicating ideas through my work. If you're into the visual arts I highly recommend (Deakin)! I have plenty of friends at Deakin who love the facilities and have had a positive experience.'

Melinda
Visual Communication Design student

Find your story. Discover more at
blogs.deakin.edu.au/deakinartsed

Eden Thomas
Copper lining, 2024
© Eden Thomas



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**This publication was created by Deakin University.
A Major Partner of NGV exhibition, Top Arts 2025.**

Cover artwork:
Piper Day
Gwai Mui, 2024
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Deakin University Provider Code: 00113B