

# NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA NGV

and G.A.T.E.WAYS

invite creative Year 3 and 4 children

with a passion for the visual arts to

## *'Ancient Worlds'*

**National Gallery of Victoria, International, St Kilda Road, Melbourne**

**G.A.T.E.WAYS** is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. Join us at the National Gallery of Victoria for an intensive program based on the collection of art works and objects from the Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans and Chinese.

**Meet** at the North entrance, National Gallery of Victoria, International St Kilda Rd, 9.15. **Pick up time is 3.30** on both days; **at 3.15 on day two** parents and family are invited to attend a display of artworks in the education studios on level one.

**Requirements:** writing materials, a small notebook; a morning tea snack, lunch & a drink in a resealable container ( no nuts)

### **DAY 1: IN THE GALLERY**

We start the program in the studio, as we introduce each other and share what we know about the Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans and Chinese.

Then we travel back in time to 3500BC and learn more about the daily lives of these ancient peoples. We focus on the importance of belief, mythology, ritual and symbolism across these societies and about the invention of bronze, glass, ceramics, silk, cotton, linen and paper.

We observe the original bronze mirrors, cooking vessels, death and burial masks, tomb ware, coffins, grave stones, mummy portraits, stone mosaics, cosmetic jars, grinder stones, bowls, votive statuettes, ceramic pots, glass ware, incense burners, red and black amphoras, wine jugs, plates and marble and clay animal sculptures. We will learn about the materials, technology and function of these. Expect to look slowly and carefully, ask and answer questions, discuss and share your ideas and opinions.

We discover the ancient Egyptians, who their Pharaohs were, what their death mask looked like, how they were buried and the treasures they took on their journeys to the afterlife. We learn to read hieroglyphics and note how the body was portrayed, how line, pattern and proportion were used.

Then we travel to ancient Rome and Greece and look at warriors painted on vases made out of clay. We study the myths and see how Achilles was defeated in battle. We see how they dressed; notice their hairstyles and their chariots.

### **DAY 1: IN THE STUDIO**

You will create three distinct art works reflecting the ancient worlds over the two days. You will design an Egyptian mask and headdress on a cardboard base, using patterns and symbols of your choice. You will invent your own pictograms and hieroglyphs to use on your mask and headdress. We will use paint, fine liners and a wide range of coloured papers and fake jewels.

The second art work will be based on the myths and legends depicted on the Greek and Roman jars and amphoras. You think about and invent a myth based on imagined creatures with supernatural qualities and translate this story onto a 2D red or black large scale amphora using paper and fine white pens and pencils.

### **DAY TWO: IN THE GALLERY**

We explore the tombs of the ancient Chinese. We think about and consider their belief in the afterlife, the need for tomb guardians, tax agents, domestic servants and animals used to carry textiles within their complex tomb structures. We observe traditionally painted ink brush scrolls that represent the essence of nature and the beauty of the rugged mountainous landscapes. We learn about The Four Treasures and the significance of calligraphy.

### **DAY 2: IN THE STUDIO**

You will have time to complete your Egyptian mask and Greek amphora in the morning session.

After lunch and a meditation session to calm our minds and still our energy, we will practise Chinese painting. Using ink and a range of traditional Chinese brushes you will experiment with the materials before working on your final scroll. You will write a short poem to complement the landscape painting.

Collaboratively we set up an exhibition displaying all the art works for your parents and family to observe from 3.15 on Day Two.



## Reporting

At the end of the program children will be presented with a certificate

## ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

**Marg Stephens** is an experienced educator who has worked with the NGV collection for many years. She has conducted international visual arts projects with young artists from schools across Australia, China, Vietnam, India, South Korea, Japan and Indonesia.

**Rebecca Hicks** is a passionate and well informed arts educator; she has extensive knowledge of the NGV collection. She has developed and presented programs for gifted and talented programs over many years for Melbourne and regional based students.

