



G.A.T.E.WAYS

and

The National Gallery of Victoria,

invite creative children with artistic talent to

'FLOWER POWER!'

at The National Gallery of Victoria (Australia and International), Melbourne

G.A.T.E.WAYS is an independent organisation offering challenging and enriching activities and experiences to develop and extend highly able children. Established in 1994, G.A.T.E.WAYS runs a range of stimulating school programs as well as the Saturday *Brainwaves Club*.

Flowers are an important part of our lives. We love fresh flowers and on many special occasions flowers are offered as gifts expressing our feelings and best wishes. Throughout history artists have painted pictures of flowers to celebrate life and death. We begin this program talking and thinking about flowers in art and how they connect to our daily lives; in our gardens, as designs in carpets, curtains and on cups and plates. By their very nature we are attracted to flowers, their colour and scent. We have been entranced by the incredible beauty of flowers for many centuries. The rich symbolism, colours and forms of flowers have particularly fascinated artists from the classical period to the present day. We will consider questions such as: What is a still life? What is beauty?

*Pick up time is 3.30. At 3.15 on each day parents are invited to attend a display of artworks in the education studios on level one.

Requirements: writing materials, a small notebook; a snack, lunch & a drink in a resealable container – no nuts please

Preparatory work

Day 1 & 2: Students are invited to bring a small selection of flowers and greenery from their garden to include in a still life arrangement to be used by the group as stimulus for workshop activities

Day 1: The Ian Potter Centre: NGV Australia : Meet at the Russell Street entrance, at 9.15am

In the gallery:

We will consider art works created by Indigenous, colonial and contemporary artists. Students will observe paintings of native flora by significant Australian artists such as Margaret Preston and Nora Heysen. They will note the similarities and differences of floral designs in artworks including, fashion and textiles, works on paper, decorative arts and paintings.

Students will learn and talk about the wonderful variety of the elements of art: line, colour, shape, form and texture. An opportunity to sketch in the gallery will be provided to students throughout the two day program, a challenging and exciting activity to develop observational skills.

In the Studio:

Students will develop their observation skills as they draw and paint the arrangements of fresh flowers they bought into the gallery. Focus will be on shape, colour, size, scale and texture. Students will use a variety of drawing and painting materials and create a number of works over an extended period of time.

Students will use their imagination to design a new species of plants, trees, shrubs or flowers. Using cut and torn tissue and other selected papers we will design the new garden creating a collaborative mural. Students will be able to take their individual work home

Parents are invited to join us in the studio at 3.15 for a mini exhibition.

Day 2: Meet at the Schools/Groups entrance, NGV International, 180 St Kilda Road, 9.15am.

In the gallery:

Students continue to build on their knowledge from day one with an extended focus on the floral motif in relation to symbolism. We will explore the significance of the flower and still life across the Egyptian, Chinese, Dutch, French and Italian permanent collection. Ceramics, glassware, paintings, drawings, fashion and furniture will be examined in close detail to see how artists have been inspired to use flowers, plants, and foliage.

In the studio:

Inspired by the art works in the gallery students will draw with different mediums observing the fresh flowers from a range of positions, close up, underneath and elevated. The focus will be on shape, scale, colour and texture.

The final workshop will be on creating a three dimensional jungle with oversized plants, flowers and foliage. We will work collaboratively to build these dramatic sculptural forms using bamboo, wire, soft fabrics, papers and found objects. Unexpected details will be collaged onto leaves, stems and petals to create a surreal environment. Students will be able to take their individual work home.

Parents are invited to join us in the studio at 3.15 for a mini exhibition

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

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Marg Stephens is an experienced artist and 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. Encouraging creativity, developing imagination, building skills and confidence are essential elements of arts education

