
Blue: Alchemy of a Colour

NGV INTERNATIONAL
6 NOV 2015 – 20 MAR 2016


Cobalt blue pigment and indigo blue dye are two of the most distinctive and influential colourants employed by artists worldwide. *Blue: Alchemy of a Colour* explores how artists have created works in the desirable blue and white palette using a wide range of methods and styles, to produce unique and exquisite works of art. On display in the Rio Tinto Gallery of Asian Art, Blue reveals the fascinating metamorphosis of pattern, form and motif stemming from the global trade of these works, and the tales told through the use of this colour in ceramics, textiles, woodblock prints and paintings.

The exhibition focusses on works from the NGV Asian Art Collection and includes Persian, Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese ceramics, indigo dyed textiles from China, Japan, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and India, and selected works from Egypt, England and Italy.

Student Programs

Introductory tour
Recommended Years 5 – 12

Explore artistic expression across Asia and Europe in ceramics decorated in cobalt blue and white, and paintings, prints and textiles incorporating indigo and synthetic blue colourants, dating from the 7th century AD to the present. Gain insight into techniques, symbolism, status and the diaspora of ideas, trade and practice.

Cost \$7
Alchemy of a colour throughout the gallery
Recommended Years 5 – 12

Understand and appreciate colour in art through *Blue: Alchemy of a Colour* and other works in the NGV collection. Learn about the source, usage, symbolism, history and meaning of different colours. Extend the investigation to consider the science of colour and our perception of colour.

Cost \$7
Blue: Alchemy of a Colour workshop
Recommended Years 5 – 12

Colours, patterns and motifs have been essential elements employed by artists across cultures and times. Referencing works of art in the exhibition students will create their own decorated ceramic piece using blue porcelain paint. Includes introductory viewing and discussion of exhibition.

Cost \$19 (2 hrs)
Bookings and enquiries

03 8620 2340, 12–5pm weekdays

edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au
ngv.vic.gov.au/learn/schools-programs/School-Programs-Booking

Principal Partner:

RioTinto
JAPANESE
Summer kimono, Yukata

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