

# JOHN OLSEN

## THE YOU BEAUT COUNTRY

16 SEPTEMBER 2016 – 12 FEBRUARY 2017



John Olsen is one of Australia's greatest living artists. Born in Newcastle NSW in 1928, Olsen is well known for his energetic and distinctive painting style and in particular for his lyrical depiction of the landscape. He is a major figure in the story of Australian art and his unique and sensual pictorial language presents a very personal view of the world.

*John Olsen: The You Beaut Country* offers an unparalleled opportunity to examine Olsen's consummate place in Australian art history. His You beaut country series, which followed his return to Australia in 1960 after three years travelling in Europe, began what would be a lifelong interest in representing the landscape and Australian identity. These works are presented alongside his more recent paintings, prints and watercolours, including those inspired by the filling of Lake Eyre. The exhibition reveals an artist who at 88 years of age has lost none of his passion for his subject matter, nor his creative vitality and retains a unique ability to capture the spirit of the Australian landscape.

**NGV Education Bookings**  
**Bookings and enquiries**  
**03 8620 2340, 12–5pm weekdays**  
**[edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au](mailto:edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au)**

John Olsen  
*Seafood paella* 2007  
Private collection  
© John Olsen, administered  
by Viscopy, Sydney

### STUDENT PROGRAMS

#### INTRODUCING THE WORK OF JOHN OLSEN ALL LEVELS\*

'To be an Australian artist is to be an explorer'  
– John Olsen

Investigate this comprehensive retrospective exhibition of one of Australia's most important and innovative artists with a NGV educator. Discover what has informed John Olsen's artmaking, his subject matter, his choice of materials and his working methods. Explore how he communicates his ideas in a diverse array of art works including, ceramic painting, printmaking, tapestries, drawings, water colour paintings and oil paintings.

Allow time for self-guided viewing of the exhibition after this introductory talk.

**Cost \$13**

#### WORKSHOP – REVERBERATIONS, PULSATIONS, RHYTHMIC JOY! \* ALL LEVELS

In this stimulating and exploratory art making workshop, students will be introduced to a variety of mark making techniques using a range of art media. Music, poetry and rhythmic sounds will then be used to facilitate curious subconscious visual responses.

**Cost \$10**

#### EXPLORING FOLIO DEVELOPMENT AND ARTISTIC INSPIRATION YEAR 10 TO VCE

Nature, poetry, travel, and the Australian landscape have been important sources of ideas and inspiration for John Olsen's artmaking. Olsen regularly uses journaling to explore and develop these concepts. Olsen's journaling includes diverse sources of inspiration including lines of famous poetry, endless descriptions of research and ideas, sketches, photographs and creative prose. Through exploring the creative processes underlying John Olsen's practice, and the materials and techniques he uses in his artmaking, this presentation will assist students in their own creative thinking and folio development.

**Cost \$13**

### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

#### JOHN OLSEN THE YOU BEAUT COUNTRY FOR TEACHERS FRI 21 OCT, 5.30–7.30PM

Join curator David Hurlston and NGV Educators for a discussion and viewing of the exhibition *John Olsen The You Beaut Country*.

**Cost \$60** (includes light refreshments on arrival)

\* Program content and focus will be tailored to the level of student group