

NGV

BALDESSIN / WHITELEY. PARALLEL VISIONS

31 AUG 18 – 28 JAN 19
THE IAN POTTER CENTRE: NGV AUSTRALIA

George Baldessin and Brett Whiteley were born in the same year – 1939 – and in the 1960s and 1970s experienced meteoric success in their respective cities of Melbourne and Sydney.

Primarily a printmaker, sculptor and graphic artist, Baldessin's art reflected the rich multicultural humanism of Melbourne, infused with inspiration from France, Japan, and Italy his country of birth. Whiteley, principally a painter, printmaker and sculptor; started out in the Sydney art scene. He found early success in London and basked in the avant-garde culture of New York before returning to Sydney.

Despite their differences, their art shares many startling and unusual synergies. Both were figurative expressionists, attracted to popular culture, and to avant-garde and existentialist ideas. Both were innovative in their use of media, were provocative in their artistic language and ultimately created an art that epitomised their epoch. Tragically, both men also died unexpectedly young.

This exhibition combines some of these artists' most iconic works as well as others that have never been exhibited before. It includes artworks from Whiteley's Christie series and Baldessin's etchings that redefined for a generation of Melburnians their attitude to eroticism and the urban environment.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTORY TOUR

YEARS 10–12
Encounter the worlds and works of two giants of Australian art in an educator led introductory floor talk. Be inspired by their innovative use of media, their unique artistic language, and tap into their ideas and inspiration.
Cost \$18 per student (1 hr)

EXPLORE AND DRAW – BUILDING A BANK OF IDEAS

YEARS 10–12
Extend your introductory floor talk with a drawing session in the exhibition. Inspired by the artists' use of line and form, students will draw in front of selected works to build up ideas to explore in their folios back at school.
Cost \$26 (2 hrs)

SELF-GUIDED VISITS

Pre-book your self-guided visit to receive the discounted student group price and a complimentary ticket for one teacher per fifteen students.
Cost \$10 (student), \$16 (tertiary student)

Please be aware that there may be some works on display that are not suitable for all audiences. Teachers are advised to visit the Gallery or discuss any concerns with the NGV Learn team.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

EDUCATOR EVENING

FRI 7 SEP, 5.30–8.30PM
Join other educators for an introduction to the exhibition by Guest Curator Sasha Grishin, a private viewing of the exhibition, and refreshments. This program will provide valuable insights into key themes and works in the exhibition to help plan a visit with students.
Cost \$60

MASTERCLASS FOR TEACHERS

WED 26 SEP, 9.30AM–3.30PM
Exhibition introduction and viewing with Guest Curator Sasha Grishin, followed by a life drawing workshop with artist Godwin Bradbeer. Refreshments and all materials provided.
Cost \$174.50

BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES

W ngv.melbourne/learn
P 03 8620 2340, 9am–5pm weekdays
E edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au

The NGV warmly thanks Krystyna Campbell-Pretty and the Campbell-Pretty Family for their support of the NGV Schools Access Program.

The NGV gratefully acknowledges the Packer Family Foundation for generously supporting the Your NGV Arts Access Program.

(above) **Greg Weight Brett Whiteley – portrait 2 1975** (detail) National Portrait Gallery, Canberra. Gift of Patrick Corrigan AM 2004. Donated through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program © Greg Weight

(below) George Baldessin c. 1974 (detail) Photo © Merrilyn Partos

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