



DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY

Top Arts 2022

VCE focus questions

Top Arts focus questions

Top Arts is part of the VCAA Season of Excellence and showcases the exceptional work of students who have completed Art or Studio Arts as part of their Victorian Certificate of Education.

We encourage you to work your way through the following questions as you explore the exhibition space and related art folios. They will help you put what you have learned into practice and get you set for future pathways.

Consider the characteristics of the exhibition space (light, space, sound, arrangement of works). How do these factors affect the audience's experience of the space and of the artworks?

How are visitors engaging with the art and the exhibition space? Where are they pausing; what's making them pause? Describe the scene.

Jane Siew
Exploring the Night Market 2021
(Detail)
Glen Waverley Secondary College,
Glen Waverley

Choose your favourite artwork and write down the title of the work and name of the artist. What mediums have been used and how have the materials and techniques been used to reinforce the ideas and concepts presented in the work?

Artist & Title:

Choose a different artwork in the exhibition.

VCE Art students - discuss the work using an analytical framework of your choice (contemporary, cultural, personal or structural).

VCE Studio Arts students - what considerations have been given in displaying this work (for example plinths, lighting, hanging, security presence, audience experience)?



Milla Freeman
All That We Cannot See 2021 (Detail)
Northcote High School, Northcote
© Milla Freeman

Now consider the exhibition as a whole. Are there any themes students have explored that you find particularly unique? What ideas seem popular among students in this year's cohort?

Look at one of the eight folios on the Top Arts 2022 website. How has the student's inspiration and research informed their work?



Choose an artwork that interests you. Discuss the concept and how it's been expressed through its composition and technical craft. What makes it stand out to you and what can you learn from it?



Lily Bettess
Their Life and Death 2021
Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School, Southbank
© Lily Bettess

Pick another folio from the website. How has the student made decisions about the materials and techniques they use?

VCE Art students - how does the student use the analytical frameworks in their annotations on materials?

VCE Studio Arts students - consider how the student has made their decisions. How have they expressed this?

Artist: _____

What inspiration have you gained from the artworks on display?
Comment on new ideas, mediums or techniques you'd like to explore over the coming year.

Did you know you can see what the state reviewers had to say through their annotations of several Top Arts folios?

Simply go to ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/top-arts-2022 and scroll down to the 'annotated folios' section.

Annie (Yating) Zhang
Pastoral Xanadu 2021 (Detail)
Presbyterian Ladies' College
© Annie (Yating) Zhang



Folio preparation

Portfolios are a common tool in the creative world. They can help artists gain access to grants and residencies, can showcase an artist's range and inspiration, and in some cases, serve as an entry requirement for tertiary education courses.

As a budding artist, it's good to know what a strong portfolio should include and how to prepare for one. Below you'll find some tips that should assist you both as you prepare for VCE, and throughout your creative career.



What artforms interest you?

When preparing your folio, it can help to know what you'd like to explore in your art. Are you interested in traditional forms like sculpture, oils, and pottery; or new forms like digital painting and animation?



Alicia Flegeltaub
Deterioration Dad
Bachelor of Creative Arts
(Photography)
Deakin University

What interests you?

Knowing what inspires or interests you will help you find your creative voice. Jot down the names of the artists, ideas and pieces of work that inspire you - along with a couple of lines on why.

Where will you go for inspiration?

Once you've discovered your interest areas, it's time to expand your search for inspiration. Consider exploring galleries and museums, either online or in person, as well as engaging with online platforms, books and more. Use the below space to list a few ideas of where you'll explore.

A future in the arts

There's nothing quite like the thrill of pulling off the perfect shot. Or of dreaming up a sculpture that looks impossible, before mastering all of its technical elements.

But ask any great artist and they'll tell you the same thing – it's difficult to go from student to superstar without a little support.

At Deakin's School of Communication and Creative Arts, we know it can be a little scary to take those first few steps. That's why we focus on helping our young storytellers develop the confidence to take their craft into the world.

One question we encourage young artists to ask is: what do you want your artistic career to look like?

Use the below space to brainstorm what kind of work you'd like to develop in your career, what kind of techniques you'd like to explore, and what kind of impact you'd like your work to have.

From there, it's worth exploring what kind of course will support you in developing this career. What kind of facilities would help you grow your practice? What would you want to learn about that you haven't previously considered? Taking these points back to your careers counsellor could help you find the right course.

Could Deakin be the right choice for your creative career?
To find out more about its creative arts courses, visit
deakin.edu.au/create



Amber Smith studied a Bachelor of Creative Arts (Honours) in 2017. They now work as a curator at PLATFORM Arts, a Geelong-based contemporary art gallery (pictured), which champions a new generation of thinkers, risk-takers and agitators.

Where could your story take you?

Find out more at deakin.edu.au/artsedstories



**NATIONAL GALLERY
OF VICTORIA NGV**

This publication was created by Deakin University,
A Major Partner of NGV exhibition, Top Arts 2022.

Cover artwork:

Holly O'Brien

Artwork 2 2021 (Detail)

Templestowe College, Lower Templestowe

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Deakin University Provider Code: 00113B