

**John Wolseley: Heartlands and Headwaters**

NGV AUSTRALIA

11 APR – 16 AUG 2015



Over the past four years John Wolseley has explored the waterways and wetlands of Australia in a major series of new works commissioned by Sir Roderick Carnegie. In this series of monumentally-scaled works on paper, which will be launched at the NGV in April 2015, the artist celebrates the variety and unique nature of water forms in Australia. The mangrove swamps in Roebuck Bay (W.A.), the flood plains of Garanalli in the Northern Territory, the Finke River in the Simpson Desert and the sphagnum swamps of Skullbone Plains in Tasmania are just some of the sites detailed in these impressive works.

John Wolseley  
*After the fire – Spiny-cheeked  
honeyeaters at Lake Monibeong* 2011  
Private collection  
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The different geographical features and unique plant and animal forms of these wetlands are depicted in the finely worked drawing and rich watercolour washes that characterise Wolseley's work. Many also combine collage elements and markings made "in collaboration" with the natural environment. Through this way of working, which includes burying works and drawing with carbonized wood found in the bush, the artist subverts traditional approaches to the depiction of landscape. These works celebrate the beauty of the Australian wilderness and encourage an understanding of the significance and environmental fragility of these remote and little-known sites.

**Student Programs****Introductory talk****Recommended for Years 5–10**

An introduction to the exhibition including an analysis of John Wolseley's use of design elements and working methods. Consider the geography, ecology and concepts that have inspired him.

Cost \$7

**Water, plants and earth-pencil workshop****Recommended for Years 5–10**

View, discuss and draw in the exhibition, *Heartlands*. Students will observe nature and art closely in this session to create drawings on pre-marked papers. If the weather permits this session may include outdoor drawing.

Cost \$13 (2 hours)

**Extended workshop program****Recommended for Year 7–12, or primary aged students seeking extension****13 Jul – 14 Aug**

This session builds on the water, plants and earth pencil workshop. Students will extend their drawings with other media such as charcoal, inks, earth pigments and watercolour and subtly incorporate text and poetry into their images.

Cost \$20 (3 hours)

**VCE Studio Arts Day:****Meet the artist & behind the scenes****Wednesday 24 Jun, 9.30am – 2.30pm**

View the exhibition *Heartlands and Headwaters* and hear from the artist John Wolseley about his ideas and working methods. Gain insights into the art industry and learn how monumentally-scaled works on paper are cared for and displayed through presentations by Catherine Leahy, Senior Curator, Prints and Drawings, Ruth Shervington, Senior Conservator of Paper and Cherie Schweitzer, Exhibition Designer.

Cost \$20

**VCE Studio Arts**

Consider John Wolseley's intention, art practice, and aesthetic considerations. Explore his interpretation of Australia's landscape and water forms, and key influences on his practice. Consider both the artist's and curator's role in the preparation and presentation of the artworks on display. What is a conservator's role in such an exhibition? Students will consider curatorial concepts behind the exhibition and how are they supported by graphic and exhibition design.

Cost \$7

**VCE Art**

A focus on John Wolseley's work and practice as a landscape artist exploring how he 'subverts' the prevailing landscape paradigm. Includes a brief comparison with landscape artists who worked prior to 1970 and a discussion of how analytical frameworks can be used to support the interpretation of works discussed.

Cost \$7

**Bookings and enquiries**

03 8620 2340, 12–5pm weekdays

edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au

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