

**Lurid Beauty: Australian Surrealism and its Echoes****GROUND LEVEL, THE IAN POTTER CENTRE: NGV AUSTRALIA, FEDERATION SQUARE****9 OCT 2015 – 31 JAN 2016, OPEN 10AM–5PM DAILY**

Surrealism was one of the most influential artistic movements of the 20th century. Noted for their experimental and playful approaches, and their exploration into the subconscious, Surrealist artists sought to challenge artistic conventions, opening their work to unexpected results and to the accidental image. Through techniques such as automatic drawing and collage, artists worked with the aim of liberating the unconscious mind to effect social and political revolution; others created hallucinatory and dream-like images to reveal their innermost desires.

Surrealism started in Europe in 1929 and soon spread around the world. It shook up the staid Australian art world of the 1930s, struck a chord with artists during the traumatic war years of the 1940s, and continued to appeal to artists during the 1950s who explored the movement through sculpture and biomorphic forms. Surrealism's echoes and reverberations continue to be felt into the present day, with its rich legacy evident in the practice of some of Australia's most exciting contemporary artists.

*Lurid Beauty* presents over 200 paintings, drawings, collages, sculptures, fashion, films and photographs as well as considering theatre and performance in an exuberant exploration of Surrealism and its profound influence on Australian art and creative life. Juxtaposing historical and contemporary works, the immersive exhibition will showcase the work of artists including James Cant, Albert Tucker, Max Dupain, Erik Thake, James Gleeson, Peter Booth, Julie Rrap, Pat Brassington, Anne Wallace and Tim Schultz.

**Student Programs****Exhibition Introduction****All levels**

Explore Australian Surrealism from its historical origins to the present day. Discover the profound impact of the art movement on Australian art. Prepare for the unexpected, the whimsical and the playful as you are transported into another world. Talk will be adapted to the level of each group. Please allow time for self-guided viewing of exhibition following introductory talk

**Cost \$9 (1hr)****Fantastical dreamscapes workshop****All levels**

Explore strange juxtapositions, crazy transformations and surprising situations. Students will use a range of working methods made famous by the Surrealists to create fantastical biomorphic forms in surreal dreamscapes. This program is designed to follow an introductory talk and self-guided exhibition viewing.

**Cost \$9 (1hr)****Nutty sentences and bizarre paragraphs****All levels**

The importance of the unconscious as a source of inspiration is central to the nature of Surrealism. Working in the exhibition space, students will be introduced to numerous writing games and techniques to free their imagination and conscious control. Students may complete fully developed pieces or drafts/starting points for more extensive pieces which can be completed back at school.

**Cost \$11 (1hr)****Self-guided visits**

Pre-book your self guided visit and receive a complimentary ticket for a teacher.

**Cost \$7****Bookings and enquiries**

03 8620 2340, 12–5pm weekdays

edu.bookings@ngv.vic.gov.au

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