

Love: Art of Emotion 1400-1800

NGV International | 31 March – 18 June 2017 | FREE



A major exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria will celebrate and explore one of humankind's most complex emotions, love, as seen through the eyes of European artists from 1400 to 1800.

Produced in collaboration with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, *Love: Art of Emotion 1400–1800* features more than 200 artworks from the NGV's permanent collection, spanning painting, sculpture, prints and drawings, costume, furniture and religious artefacts. Traversing the Medieval to the Romantic period, *Love: Art of Emotion* examines the ever-shifting and multifaceted

expressions of a subject of perennial interest to artists and society alike.

Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV, commented, '*Love: Art of Emotion* reveals hundreds of powerful depictions of love in art from 1400 to 1800, from Antonio Vivarini's much-celebrated painting *The Garden of Love*, c. 1465-1470 to an intricately carved 16th century wedding dowry chest. Drawn from every area of the National Gallery of Victoria's collection, this exhibition will offer an incredibly rich and diverse display of works, placing the NGV's holdings in surprising new contexts.'

Love: Art of Emotion 1400–1800 traces the cycle of love through three thematic sections: *Anticipation*, *Realisation* and *Remembrance*. In *Anticipation*, which focuses on the emergence of love with works that depict courtship, flirtation and seduction, viewers will encounter porcelain sculptures of Venus and her son Cupid alongside delicate folding fans, often gifted as love tokens throughout the 1700s, among other artworks. *Realisation* will examine acts of love: marriage, motherhood, religious ceremonies and charities, through poignant works like Cornelis de Vos's tender family portrait *Mother and Child*, 1624, and a 1791 English silk wedding dress.

The final section, *Remembrance*, is devoted to love's complex relationship to memory, longing and sentiment. A diverse range of works will be revealed including delicate pieces of mourning jewellery, which were intrinsic to the mourning ritual by the mid-1600s, incorporating lockets of loved ones' hair and images of Romantic symbols of mortality such as urns and weeping willows.

The exhibition considers love in relation to associated emotions such as desire, wonder, ecstasy, affection, compassion, envy, melancholy, longing and hope, as well as the ways in which these combine and intersect.

Love: Art of Emotion 1400–1800 will be accompanied by a rich program of events including masterclasses, public programs, musical performances and education programs. For details, visit NGV.MELBOURNE and www.historyofemotions.org.au.

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MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

MEDIA CONTACTS: MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NGV

MARION JOSEPH | 03 8620 2346 | 0427 147 999 | MARION.JOSEPH@NGV.VIC.GOV.AU

ELISABETH ALEXANDER | 03 8620 2347 | ELISABETH.ALEXANDER@NGV.VIC.GOV.AU

The exhibition is supplemented by a lavishly illustrated, 248-page publication featuring essays from exhibition curator Dr Angela Hesson, Dr Lisa Beaven, Professor Anne Dunlop, Dr Matthew Martin, Gary Schwartz, Professor Patricia Simons and Professor James Grantham Turner, and co-edited by Dr Angela Hesson, Dr Matthew Martin and Professor Charles Zika.

Love: Art of Emotion 1400–1800 is on display at NGV International, 180 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne, Australia from 31 March to 18 June 2017. Entry is FREE.

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This exhibition is produced in collaboration with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions 1100-1800 and The University of Melbourne.

PRINCIPAL PARTNER



MEDIA CONTACTS

Elisabeth Alexander, Senior Coordinator, Media and Public Affairs, NGV

03 8620 2347 | 0439 348 357 | elisabeth.alexander@ngv.vic.gov.au

Marion Joseph, Head of Media and Public Affairs, NGV

03 8620 2346 | 0427 147 999 | marion.joseph@ngv.vic.gov.au

Image Caption:

Master of the Stories of Helen

Italian active mid 15th century

Antonio Vivarini (studio of)

Italian c. 1415–(c. 1476–84)

The Garden of Love c. 1465-1470

oil, tempera and gold on wood panel

152.5 x 239.0 cm

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

Felton Bequest, 1948 (1827-4)