

A photograph of two acrobats performing a water pole balancing act. One acrobat is standing on a thin white pole that is partially submerged in dark water. The second acrobat is balanced on the first's hands, with their feet resting on the first's shoulders. The background is a misty, greyish-blue sky. A teal circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

# Top Arts 2018

VCE focus questions  
and folio tips

# Top Arts focus questions

Top Arts, part of the VCAA Season of Excellence, 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 focus questions to start putting what you have learnt into practice. Also included in this booklet are some handy tips to get your folio ready for university submission.

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?

---

---

What are the interactive elements of the exhibition? How do these change the audience's experience of the exhibition?

---

---

---

---

Choose an artwork that appeals to you (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:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

Chose 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 to display this work (plinths, lighting, hanging, security presence, audience experience)?

**Artist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Alexandra Syme**  
*Suburban landscape* 2017 (detail)  
Woodleigh School  
Langwarrin South  
© Alexandra Syme



Sienna Espie  
*Light and contrast – Human form 2017 (detail)*  
Padua College  
Mornington  
© Sienna Espie

Consider the exhibition as a whole. Are there any themes that students have explored that you find particularly unique? What themes seem popular amongst students in this year's exhibition?

---

---

---

---

---

Pick a folio and describe how the student has used inspiration to inform the development of their concept.





'My course at Deakin helped my career by giving me the skills and craft to think beyond boundaries and encourage my creative thinking as a powerful source of problem solving. I can work with and around limitation, but mostly I have an in-depth understanding of the world and how it can be effected!'

**Erin Dickinson**

Bachelor of Creative Arts (Visual Arts) graduate,  
Deakin University  
Practising Artist



# Folio preparation

Did you know most tertiary education providers require you to submit a folio of your work if you are applying to study a creative arts or design course? It is a good idea to start thinking about this during your VCE studies and develop a folio of work that you can use as part of your university submission.

## What is a folio?

A folio is a collection of your personal work. It gives an insight into your creative thinking processes and the meaning behind your work. It showcases your passions, technical skills and diversity as an artist.

## What artforms interest you?

E.g. hand drawings, computer aided drawings, paintings, graphic design, photographs, digital images, models, sculptures, video, scripting, short stories, 2D and 3D Flash animation.

## What inspires you?

Investigate what inspires you. Select ideas, materials and techniques and source good examples of your favourite artists, photographers or designers. Jot down some of your inspiration.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## How can you prepare your folio?

Research your interest areas. Search far and wide. Explore galleries and museums, books or magazines, watch films and live performances, take photos or discover online platforms. Brainstorm your ideas:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



Rachel Hanlon  
*Hello Machine 201*  
Bachelor of Creative Arts  
(Visual Arts) graduate,  
Deakin University



Melissa Smith  
*Light Study 0717*  
Bachelor of Creative Arts  
(Photography) graduate,  
Deakin University



## Where to from here?

Develop your ideas and showcase your curiosity. Show the creative process, ask questions about your work and collaborate with others.

Sketch here

## Next steps

Search for opportunities to learn more. Participate in workshops, listen to others and discover your future possibilities.

*Pencil in 11 September at Deakin's Melbourne Burwood Campus or 12 September at*

*Deakin's Geelong Waterfront Campus for our Creative Arts Exploration Evening.*

To find out more about Deakin's courses in creative arts and the folio entry requirements, attend one of our Creative Arts Folio exploration evening. Visit [deakin.edu.au/create](http://deakin.edu.au/create) to find out more.

Notes





This publication was created by Deakin University.  
A Major Partner of NGV exhibition, Top Arts 2018.

Cover artwork:  
**Thomas Emerson**  
*Acrobatic series 2017* (detail)  
St Kevin's College  
Toorak  
© Thomas Emerson

Deakin University Provider Code: 00113B