



**DEAKIN**  
UNIVERSITY

# Top Arts 2021

VCE focus questions

# 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.

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?

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What are the ways in which visitors engage with the artworks and the space? Where are they pausing? Are they taking pictures? Describe the scene.

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**Bronte Green**  
*Streets of your town* 2020  
Santa Maria College, Northcote  
© Bronte Green

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:**

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

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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?

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Look at one of the four folios on the Top Arts 2021 website. How has the student's inspiration and research informed their work?



List your ideas from Top Arts 2021.

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Lucy Schacher  
*Routine, Repetition, Reality 2020*  
 Camberwell High School, Canterbury  
 © Lucy Schacher

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:

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

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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-2021](https://ngv.vic.gov.au/exhibition/top-arts-2021) and scroll down to the 'annotated folios' section.

Phoebe Thompson  
*Coexistence 2020*  
 St Margaret's School, Berwick  
 © Phoebe Thompson



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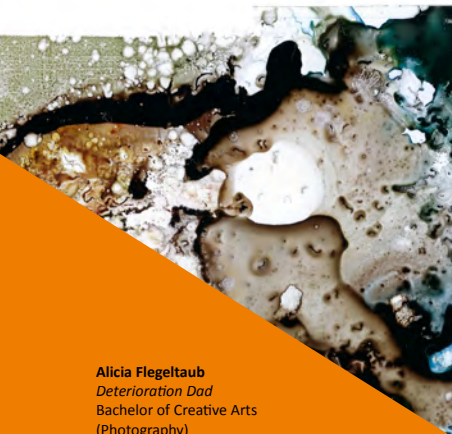


**Sophie Yang**  
*Imagine How Much More You Could Be 2020*  
Yarra Valley Grammar, Ringwood  
© Sophie Yang

Sketch here

# Folio preparation

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



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

## 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'll also showcase your interests, technical skills and diversity as an artist.

## 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 more traditional forms like sculpture, oils, and pottery; or digital painting and animation?

## What inspires 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 why.

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## How can you prepare for 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. Below, write down some of the sources that'll help you connect with your interest areas:

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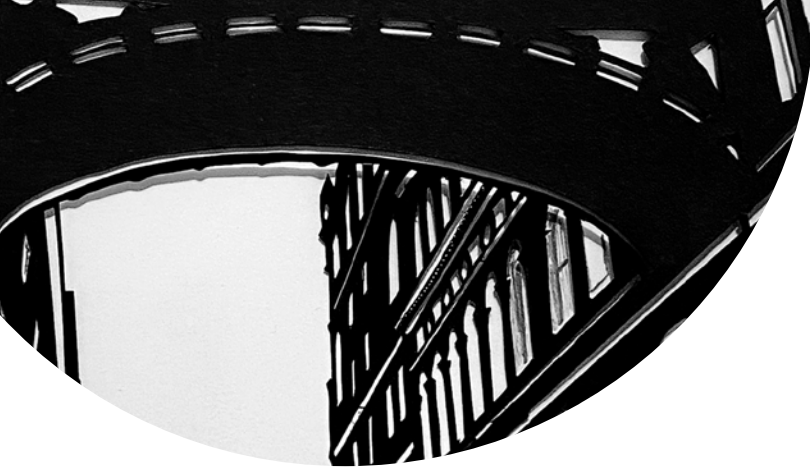
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**Chen Yuan Kang**  
*The Memory of Venice*  
Bachelor of Creative Arts  
(Visual Arts)  
Deakin University

## What are universities looking for?

Your folio doesn't need to contain masterpieces. Instead, it should reveal who you are as an artist and paint a picture of the creative journey you're on. To help assessors understand who you are and what you're trying to achieve, try writing a short description of the ideas you explore in your work and why you've chosen a particular medium.

You could also brainstorm what you'll include in your folio to showcase your inspirations or process - like cut-outs of your favourite pieces of work, or samples of rough sketches.

[illegible]

## How do you communicate your creative process?

Being able to clearly communicate your artistic intentions and choices is key to producing a strong folio. Below, try summarising your usual creative process and what it helps you achieve.

[illegible]

**Hayden Hood**  
*Isolation Sports*  
Bachelor of Creative Arts (Photography) graduate,  
Deakin University

Include work in your folio  
that excites and inspires you.





## Where to from here?

Now that you've seen what other students have done, it's worth thinking about what you've learnt. In the space below, write down or illustrate what you've taken away for your own folio. Are there ideas you've been inspired by, or processes you'd like to experiment with?

Sketch here

## Next steps

It's worth having a plan for how you'll create your folio. Use this space to brainstorm what your next actionable steps will be. Will you create a timeline? Visit a series of galleries or websites? List at least three steps.

To find out more about Deakin's courses in creative arts, visit [deakin.edu.au/create](https://deakin.edu.au/create). Or join us for our Virtual Open Day on August 15, to explore our campuses and meet our staff in a brand-new fashion.



'I have nothing but praise and admiration for the Deakin staff. They were always supportive of my out-of-the-box ideas and offered valuable insights based on their professional experience. Their networks are extraordinary diverse.'

### Molly Patton

Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science graduate,  
Founder and Creative-in-Chief of Patton'd Studios





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**Erin Kim**

*Belonging 2020 (Detail)*

Templestowe, Lower Templestowe

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