



TOP ARTS | 2026
VCE focus questions

NATIONAL GALLERY
OF VICTORIA | NGV

 DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY

Top Arts focus questions

Top Arts presents exceptional and thought-provoking work. The art exhibited is produced by students who have completed art subjects as part of their Victorian Certificate of Education. Drawn from a range of media, topics, schools and students, Top Arts is part of the annual Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority's VCE Season of Excellence.

Make your way around the exhibition space and use these questions to deepen your understanding of the artworks.



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Amaia Mercer
Tea party, 2025
Balwyn High School, Balwyn
© Amaia Mercer

Explore the work

1. Choose an artwork that you would like to analyse.

- Jot down some initial thoughts about how you respond and relate to the work.
- What makes it stand out to you and what can you learn from it?

2. Pick a different work.

- What concept is the artist communicating?
- How have they used materials and techniques to express it?

3. What inspiration have you gained from the artworks on display?

- Comment on new ideas, mediums, or techniques you'd like to explore over the coming year.



Poppy Nivarovich
Birds and people series, 2025
Belmont Highschool, Geelong
© Poppy Nivarovich

Have a go

4. Interview someone from your class, your friendship group or family. Show them some of your favourite works in the exhibition, and ask them to respond to them. Gather their responses.

- Are they similar or different to yours?
- In what way?
- Why do you think that is?

5. Think about how artists use materials and techniques by watching exhibitor interviews on the **Top Arts 2026 Hub**. Listen to how the exhibitors discuss their experimentation with and application of materials and techniques.

- How does the artist express their relationship to the materials within their art?
- How have they explained their choices and the reasons for their methods?
- What different artistic techniques are observed?



Goldman Xu

Fragments of becoming (detail), 2025

Camberwell Grammar School, Camberwell

© Goldman Xu

Portfolio preparation

A portfolio is a living and changing collection of your work. It reflects your range, skills, experiences, and inspiration. It can help you, the artist, gain access to grants and residencies and is often an entry requirement for tertiary education courses.

As an artist, you need to know what a strong portfolio should include.

Please use these prompts to help spur on your creativity as you prepare for VCE and your creative career.



What artforms excite you?

Is it traditional forms like sculpture, oils, and pottery, or new forms like digital painting and animation?



What do you like?

Understanding your passions, ideas, favourite artists, and creations will help you find your creative voice.



Where do you find inspiration?

Galleries, museums, online, in person, books?



How do you communicate your creative process?

Clear communication of your artistic intentions is key to producing a strong portfolio.



Your future in the arts

At Deakin's School of Communication and Creative Arts we recognise that it's difficult to go from zero to hero in a creative space without support. That's why we focus on helping our creators and storytellers develop confidence to take their craft into the world. At Deakin, we nurture your talent, challenge you to be better, and connect you with fellow students who share your passion and energy.

Find out more:



Questions to consider with your careers practitioner when choosing further study

- What do you want your artistic career to look like?
- What kind of impact would you like your work to have?
- What kind of techniques will help grow your practice?
- Will you need specific facilities?
- Where do you want to take your learning?

Sayuni Wickramasinghe
Burnout, 2025
Caulfield Grammar School, Wheelers Hill
© Sayuni Wickramasinghe



'Deakin's design community shaped how I lead at Canva; empowering teams, thinking end-to-end and building work that lasts.'

Troy Campbell
Deakin Design graduate
Design Lead - Canva

Find your story. Discover more at
blogs.deakin.edu.au/deakinartsed



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**NATIONAL GALLERY
OF VICTORIA** | **NGV**



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Audrey Jacques

The Echo of Someone Else's Memory, 2025

Viewbank College, Viewbank

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