



NOLAN COLLECTION GALLERY @ CMAG Education Programs

Cnr London Circuit & Civic Square Canberra City / Enquiries 6207 3794

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY

[Preschool Program]

Looking becomes an exciting adventure when exploring the paintings of Sidney Nolan!

Children will engage with selected works from Nolan's *Kelly* series and bring them to life through art-based games, singing, storytelling, puppetry and role-play.

Children further investigate these ideas during a practical art-making session in the CMAG studio where they will experiment with a variety of media to create works of art.

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INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

Every Picture Tells a Story is an early childhood visual arts program for Preschool children. The program aims to:

- Introduce children to the work of Sidney Nolan.
- Explore narratives in works of art through art-based games, singing, storytelling, puppetry and role-play.
- Experiment with a variety of media to create individual art works.

In the gallery, children will encounter original works of art by the Australian artist Sidney Nolan and engage in lively discussion, facilitated by a CMAG Education Officer. This learning is enhanced by a structured hands-on art making session in the CMAG Studio.

Where is CMAG located?

Corner London Cct and Civic Square, Canberra City



Pre-visit call

A CMAG Education Officer will contact you in the weeks leading up to your excursion to ask you for more information about your group/s. Please assist us at this time by providing information about any children with special needs, including children who are from a non English speaking background. This pre-visit call is also an opportunity to discuss ways the Education Officer can incorporate any recent classroom learning into the program.

Time frame

- 10.00 – 10.05am** introduction (5 minutes)
- 10.05 – 10.40am** art appreciation in the Nolan Collection Gallery (35 minutes)
- 10.40am** recess (20 minutes)
- 11.00 – 11.55am** art-making in the CMAG studio (55 minutes)
- 11.55am** pack up and goodbye

What will happen in the program?

The program runs for two hours and includes a recess with a morning tea and toilet break. On arrival children's bags, hats and coats are stored away. Following an introduction, children will move into the exhibition space for a facilitated tour. During the tour children are encouraged to look closely at, and discuss works of art by Sidney Nolan. A morning tea break of approximately 15 - 20 minutes is provided. Following the break, children move into the CMAG Studio. Each child will then make a painting, a print, and a collage in response to works they engaged with in the exhibition.

What do I need to do before the visit?

Please ensure children are wearing name tags or stick-on name labels on the day of your excursion. The labels help us communicate with children and will be transferred to smocks for the studio component of the program.

Please ensure children are divided into 3 separate groups on the day of your excursion. The groups could be divided by placing a coloured star or dot in the corner of each child's name tag.

Adult help and supervision is essential to run the program. We require adults to help out, however due to space limitations no more than 10 adults (including teachers) should attend the visit.

It would be appreciated if children's morning tea could be placed in a large basket rather than separate backpacks to assist in the time management of the program.

What do I need to bring with me?

- Name tags
- Children divided into 3 groups
- Parent help
- Morning tea

After the visit

Children's works of art are collated and name identified following their visit. Allow up to four weeks for CMAG staff to arrange a time with you to collect your students' work.

Photography

Photography is permitted throughout the program; however flash photography is not permitted within CMAG galleries.

Evaluation

Teachers are asked to complete the evaluation form provided at the end of the program. We really appreciate your input so that we can continue to improve our programs. We also value your feedback so that we can maintain those elements of the program that you think work well.

Bookings and Inquiries

Every Picture Tells a Story! is available Monday to Friday **10am - 12.00noon** and is subject to availability. Group bookings are essential.

Cost is **\$9.00** per student which includes GST. Teachers and supervisors are free of charge.

Maximum group size is **24 students**.

To make a Booking, please contact the **Booking Officer on (02) 6205 0916**.

If you have any queries or require further information about the program, please contact ACT Museums and Galleries **Nolan Education Officer on 02 6207 3794**.

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITIES

These activities are suggestions only and may be used to give your students an introduction to some of the terms, concepts, materials and processes that they will experience during the program.

Books to read

Books about Australian animals:

- *Wombat Stew* by Marcia K. Vaughan
- *The Wombat Stole my Shoe* by Katrina Griffiths
- *Diary of a Wombat* by Jackie French
- *Who Am I?* by Susan Hall
- *Waddle Giggle Gargle* by Pamela Allen
- *The Aussie A to Z* by Heath McKenzie
- *What's for Lunch?* by David Miller

Books where the picture tells the story:

- *Picture This* by Alison Jay
- *A Child's First ABC Alphabet* by Alison Jay
- *Leaf* by Stephen Michael King
- *The Other Side* by Istan Banyai
- *Animals* by Debbie Austin
- *Sunshine* by Jan Ormerod
- *Kitten Day* by Jan Ormerod
- *Window* by Jeannie Baker
- *Belonging* by Jeannie Baker

Books about hiding and chasing:

- *Moon Man* by Tomi Ungerer

Books that introduce children to works of art:

- *I Spy - Animals in Art* by Lucy Micklethwait
- *I Spy - Shapes in Art* by Lucy Micklethwait

Children's songs with an Australian theme available on CD:

- *Don Spencer's The Ultimate Collection*

Vocabulary

Children may encounter a number of unfamiliar words during the program. We encourage teachers to talk with students about their art work using age-appropriate language. This discussion will help to develop children's understanding of art and allow them to communicate new concepts about art. Some new words children may encounter during the program include:

Museum	Gallery	Folio	Helmet	Mask
	Bushranger	Pattern	Texture	

Look at the Ned Kelly paintings

Works of art from the Nolan Collection Gallery @ CMAG may be viewed online at. [Click here](#) to view the Foundation Collection.

Be a Bushranger

Make a helmet from one of your preschool paintings. Cut a peephole then roll the painting into a cylinder to fit the child's head. Staple and tape the join.

Create Clay Animals

Find some images of magpies, wombats, lizards and other Australian animals. Collect some feathers. Look closely at the textures and details through a magnifying glass. Talk about them and draw them. Teach children how to shape and join pieces of clay together. Make some Australian animals out of air-dry clay (this product does not need firing and is available from art stores). Work can be painted with acrylic paint when dry.

Illustrate a Poem

Make a concertina book from a long strip of paper. Children can fill it with colours, shapes, words and drawings in response to a painting, song or poem based on Australian animals.

Wombat, wombat fat and slow,
Digging with her fingers, digging with her toes,
Digging in the creek bank, digging in the hill,
Digging when it's windy, digging when it's still,
Digging when it's raining, digging when it's fine,
Dig, dig, digging in the hot sunshine.

Box Sculpture

Collect cardboard boxes and rolls of all shapes and sizes. Paint them black and allow them to dry. Children can make their very own life-size sculpture using pictures of Ned Kelly for reference.

Put on a Puppet Show

How many animals can be found in Sidney Nolan's paintings? Children can trace the outline of the animals on card. Cut out and decorate with paint and found textures. These may be attached to a paddle pop stick to make a stick puppet. Children can give each character a name and put on a puppet show for the class.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

At the end of the program, teachers will be provided with a set of colour reproductions of selected works from the Nolan Collection Gallery for use in the classroom.

Story Book

Create a large format story book based on Sidney Nolan's *Kelly* series using the children's illustrations. The book could be presented in a display folder or the separate pages could be simply bound. Put the finished story book on the library book shelf for children to borrow, take home and read.

Finger Painting

Make a very spotty *Steve Hart* finger painting! Children can cover a piece of paper with a background colour using very large house painting brushes or rollers. Encourage them to fill the whole page. When the painting is dry, the next layer of colour can be applied. Children can dip their fingers into some trays of contrasting coloured paint and make a pattern of spots.

Landscape Collage

Look carefully at the way Sidney Nolan paints the Australian landscape. Children could create a landscape collage using a combination of some of the following techniques:

- A big blue sky with wispy white clouds - use a cardboard squeegee to scrape dollops of the paint across paper.
- The hot, dry, flat, parched Australian landscape - collect some natural materials from the playground and sand from the sandpit. Mix these with paint and PVA glue.
- Make animals and figures from shapes cut from coloured paper, card or felt. Add details with markers.
- The scribbly, scrabbly Australian bush - mix tints¹, tones² and shades³ of green on a palette. Use a toothbrush or a thick glue brush to apply the paint using a scumble⁴ technique.

¹ A colour mixed with white.

² A colour mixed with grey.

³ A colour mixed with black.

⁴ A layer of colour lightly brushed over a previous colour.

Sgraffito Drawing

Ned is hiding somewhere in the Australian bush! Where's Ned? Have children fill an entire sheet of A4 cartridge paper with oil pastels. Encourage them to make patterns and solid blocks of colour with the oil pastels. Children can then paint a layer of black acrylic paint over the top until there is no colour left showing. When dry, children can use a toothpick, stick or skewer to scratch a drawing into the black paint layer, revealing the layer of colour underneath.

A SIDNEY NOLAN ART TRAIL IN CANBERRA

There are many places in Canberra to see the works of Sidney Nolan (1917 - 1992). The following venues are suggestions only, circumstances change and the works may not always be on view. Please ring to verify information before making your visit.

Nolan Collection Gallery at the Canberra Museum and Gallery (CMAG)

The Foundation Collection of twenty-four paintings by Sidney Nolan includes the earliest *Kelly* paintings (1945) and first *Burke and Wills* painting (1948). Works other than the Foundation Collection will be exhibited elsewhere in CMAG. They include: two series of drawings - *For the term of his Natural Life* and the *Rimbaud/Cezanne* series, paintings from the *Illuminations* series, works from the *Birds* series and works from *Remembrances of My Youth* series.

Nolan Collection Gallery at CMAG, Cnr London Cct and Civic Square, Canberra City.

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 5pm
Weekends during summer 12 - 5 pm
Weekends during winter 12 - 4pm
Admission free
02 6207 3968
www.museumandgalleries.act.gov.au

National Gallery of Australia

The National Gallery of Australia holds many important works by Sidney Nolan. A key group of works is the twenty-six paintings that comprise the *Kelly* series 1946 - 1947, given to the National Collection by Sunday Reed in 1977. The National Gallery Shop has a selection of books, postcards and other material relating to Sidney Nolan and his work.

The National Gallery of Australia, Parkes Place, Parkes.

Opening Hours: Daily 10am - 5pm except Christmas Day
Recorded information 02 6240 6501 General information 02 6240 6411
Admission free
www.nga.gov.au

Australian National University Collection

The Australian National University holds in its collection Sir Sidney Nolan's *Riverbend* 1964 - 1965. A monumental nine panel painting stretching for over 11 metres it was painted while Nolan was living in London. It is both a continuation of the artist's *Kelly* series, depicting the infamous shoot out at Stringy Bark Creek, as well as a nostalgic recollection of the Murray and Goulburn Rivers that Nolan knew from childhood holidays.

The Drill Hall Gallery, Kingsley St Acton, ACT (off Barry Drive)

Opening Hours: Wednesday - Sunday 12 - 5pm
02 6125 5832
Admission Free
<http://www.anu.edu.au/mac/content/dhg/>

National Portrait Gallery

'Art is a dialogue between the artist inside himself and the exterior world. On the other hand, art as a career is a public exposure. These two points of view must be synchronized.' Sidney Nolan, 1965.

The National Portrait Gallery holds a Sidney Nolan self-portrait, considered to be the last self-portrait he painted, created in the year he was made a Companion of the [Order of Australia](#) (AC), in 1988. Also on display is a 1974 portrait of the surrealist poet and intellectual Max Harris by Nolan, with whom he co-established (with John Reed) the literary journal *Angry Penguins* in 1940. Andrew Sayers, Director, National Portrait Gallery writes that "To some extent the final self-portrait of 1988 is an address to those critics who saw him as having achieved nothing of greatness after Kelly".

The Portrait Store has a selection of books, postcards and other material relating to Sidney Nolan and his work. Listen to Andrew Sayers' commentary on Sidney Nolan self-portraits online at: www.portrait.gov.au/portrait/oct06/nolan.swf

National Portrait Gallery, King Edward Terrace, Parkes, ACT 2600.

Opening Hours: Daily 10am - 5pm except Christmas Day
02 6102 7000
Admission free
www.portrait.gov.au

Parliament House Art Collection

There are four paintings in the Parliament House Art Collection by Sidney Nolan purchased between 1983 and 1992. The works are *Burke and Wills* 1964, *Antarctica* 1964, *Kelly and Riverbend* 1965 and *Miner with Dog* 1972. Works by Sidney Nolan may be included in temporary exhibitions that are held in Parliament House.

Parliament House, Capital Hill, Canberra.

Open to the public: Daily 9am - 5 pm
02 6277 5399
Admission free
www.aph.gov.au/visitors

Australian War Memorial

The Australian War Memorial holds a large collection of the work of Sidney Nolan. Any number of these may be on exhibition at any one time. In 1978 Nolan donated 252 works from his *Gallipoli* series of paintings and works on paper to the Nation. These were to be held at the Australian War Memorial as a tribute to all the Australians killed in war and in particular in memory of his young brother Raymond, a soldier who drowned in a tragic accident in Cooktown, Queensland just before the end of the Second World War. View Nolan's *Gallipoli* works online at: www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/nolan/index.asp

The Australian War Memorial, Anzac Parade, Campbell.

Opening Hours: Daily 10am - 5pm
02 6243 4211
Admission free
www.awm.gov.au

ACT CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Every Picture Tells a Story is framed by the following Essential Learning Achievements (ELAs) in the early childhood band of development of the ACT Curriculum framework:

THE ARTS
 ELA 7
 THE STUDENT CREATES, PRESENTS AND APPRECIATES ARTISTIC WORKS

Students have opportunities to understand and learn about visual arts and drama.

Students will engage with selected works from Sidney Nolan's *Kelly* series and bring them to life through art-based games, singing, storytelling, puppetry and role-play. Children are encouraged to develop the conceptual link between the visual representation of Ned Kelly hiding in the Australian bush, and the drama and suspense of a game of hide and seek.

7.EC.2

Students have opportunities to understand and learn about basic visual concepts in painting and drawing.

Students will look closely at Sidney Nolan's *Kelly* paintings to appreciate the artist's use of line, colour, shape, texture and pattern-making devices.

7.EC.4

Students have opportunities to understand and learn about dramatic elements in storytelling and drama.

Students explore the narrative element in Sidney Nolan's paintings.

"Nolan's painted narrative was rather like a series of still frames from a silent screen dramatisation of the events...he called them one off snapshots of each episode..."

(Adams, Brian. *Sidney Nolan: Such is Life, a biography*. Random House Australia, 1992. p104)

7.EC.7

Students have opportunities to learn to view a range of artistic works including those created by their peers.

Students find out about the difference between an original work of art and a reproduction. They also view the work of their peers in a final show and tell session.

7.EC.8

Students have opportunities to learn to create artistic works that tell a story.

Students create links with their own work and that of Sidney Nolan when they create a 'peek-a-boo' picture that tells the story of their own secret hiding place...just like Ned Kelly!

7.EC.9

Students have opportunities to learn to explore details and characteristics of objects, spaces, people and other living things.

Students play art-based games to explore the details of Nolan's paintings more closely.

7.EC.10

Students have opportunities to learn to experiment with the properties of different art-making techniques and materials.

Students will experiment with collage and drawing techniques. A wide range of art materials will be provided such as liquid crayons and collage media in various colours, shapes, sizes and textures.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

ELA 21

THE STUDENT UNDERSTANDS ABOUT AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIANS

21.EC.1**Geography**

Students have opportunities to understand and learn about Australia as a large land mass with a variety of environments.

Students view a map of Australia and learn about 'Kelly Country', which provides a setting for Sidney Nolan's *Kelly* paintings.

21.EC.4**History**

Students have opportunities to understand and learn about the stories of some people and events in Australia's past.

Students are introduced to the story of the Australian bushranger Ned Kelly and the Kelly gang.

21.EC.7**Contemporary Society**

Students have opportunities to understand and learn about some official and unofficial symbols used to represent Australia and Australians.

Students examine the Australian flora and fauna as depicted by Sidney Nolan in *Policeman in Wombat Hole, 1946* and discover the fictitious boomerang trees. Nolan's depiction of Ned Kelly himself as big black square has become an unofficial Australian symbol that is at once both recognisable and memorable. It was Nolan's iconic Ned Kelly that was used to represent Australia and Australians during the Opening Ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.