



NOLAN COLLECTION GALLERY @ CMAG Education Programs

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

NED KELLY'S IN TOWN!

[F – 2 Program]

Discover the Australian artist Sidney Nolan, and learn about his unique vision and fascination with the bushranger Ned Kelly.

Where's Ned? Find the figure that hides in the landscape and learn about the ways Nolan uses line, shape, colour, texture and pattern.

Inspired by the *Kelly* series, children will respond creatively using a variety of media in the studio at the Canberra Museum and Gallery. This program is an engaging introduction to various art-making techniques.

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INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

***Ned Kelly's in Town!* is an early childhood program for children in years F – 2. The program aims to:**

- Introduce children to the work of Sidney Nolan, to learn about his unique vision and fascination with the bushranger Ned Kelly.
- Explore the figure in the landscape as subject matter.
- Investigate visual elements such as line, colour, shape, texture and pattern.
- Experiment with various media and techniques such as drawing, painting, collage, and printmaking.

School classrooms are full of visual material on display, but exposure to original artworks brings an added dimension. Led by one of ACT Museums and Galleries Education Officers, children encounter original works of art by the Australian artist Sidney Nolan.

Children are engaged in lively discussions about the subject matter and visual elements of Sidney Nolan's paintings. Drawing activities in the gallery further encourage sustained, focused looking and foster imaginative activity. This experience is further enhanced by a practical art-making session in the CMAG studio.

Where is CMAG located?

Corner of London Circuit and Civic Square, Canberra City.

Time frame

10.00 – 10.05am introduction (5 minutes)
10.05 – 10.55am art appreciation (50 minutes)
10.55am morning tea (20 minutes)
11.15am – 12.15pm art-making (60 minutes)
12.15pm conclusion and goodbye

What will happen during the program?

There are two components to the program; art appreciation and art-making.

On arrival, children's hats, coats and morning tea are stored away. Following an introduction in the foyer, children will move into the gallery for a guided tour, led by one of ACT Museums and Galleries Education Officers.

During the art appreciation component (approximately 50 minutes) children are encouraged to look closely at, and discuss, paintings in the Nolan Collection Gallery.

This is followed by a morning tea and toilet break of approximately 15 – 20 minutes.

Following the break, children move into the studio for the art-making component (approximately 1 hour). Each child will create their own painting, collage and a print in response to Sidney Nolan's paintings.

What do I need to do before the visit?

Please ensure that children are wearing name tags, preferably ones with a safety pin, on the day of the excursion. These labels help us to communicate with the children.

Please ensure that children are divided into 3 even groups for the excursion. These groups could be identified with a coloured sticker 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, especially with supervising rotations in the studio. Due to space limitations, no more than 10 adults, (including teachers) should attend the visit.

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

What do I need to bring with me?

- Name tags, preferably ones with a safety pin
- Children divided into 3 even groups
- Parent helpers
- Morning tea basket

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.

After the visit

Children's artworks are collated into folios after the program. Allow up to four weeks for ACT Museums and Galleries staff to arrange a time with you to collect your students' work.

Bookings

Ned Kelly's in Town! is available Monday to Friday 10am - 12.30pm and is subject to availability. Group bookings are essential. Cost: \$6.50 per student. Teachers and supervisors are free of charge. To make a Booking, please contact the Booking Officer: (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 Australia and Australian animals:

- *Wombat Stew* by Marcia K. Vaughan
- *The Wombat Stole my Shoe* by Katrina Griffiths
- *Diary of a Wombat* by Jackie French
- *Animals* by Debbie Austin
- *Waddle Giggle Gargle* by Pamela Allen
- *Are We There Yet?* by Alison Lester

Books about bushrangers:

- *Ned Kelly and the Green Sash* by Mark Greenwood
- *Big Bad Bushranger* by Bob Brown

Books that introduce children to looking at works of art:

- *The Shape Game* by Anthony Brown
- *The Art Book for Children Book One and Book Two*

Books about hiding and chasing:

- *Moon Man* by Tomi Ungerer

Books about the visual elements of design:

- *Shape* by David Goodman

Look at the Ned Kelly paintings

Works of art from the Nolan Collection Gallery may be viewed online at:

www.museumsandgalleries.act.gov.au

Vocabulary

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 Exhibition Landscape Victoria Outlaw
Horizon Line Panorama Focal Point Foreground Background**

Talk about the Australian artist Sidney Nolan. Children could ask parents and grandparents about Sidney Nolan. What do they know about his work? Share findings with the class.

- Who was he?
- When did he live?
- What do artists do?
- What are the names of some other Australian artists?
- Where would you find more of Sidney Nolan's paintings on display?
- Visit the Heide Museum of Modern Art online where Sidney Nolan once lived and worked: www.heide.com.au

Talk about the Australian bushranger Ned Kelly. Children could ask parents and grandparents about Ned Kelly. What do they know about his life and times? Share findings with the class.

- Who was he?
- When did he live?
- Which country did he live in?
- What are the names of some other Australian bushrangers?
- Where is 'Kelly Country'? See if you can find it on a map of Australia.
- What is Ned Kelly's armor made from?
- Visit the State Library of Victoria online where the Ned Kelly armor is on display: www.slv.vic.gov.au

Creative Writing

Display the painting *Kelly 1946* by Sidney Nolan in the classroom. Record the class contributions under the headings, I see, I think, I wonder. At the end ask the children, 'what can we write'?

Make a Model

Children can make a 3D model of Ned Kelly using playdough or plasticene. Alternatively, use recycled materials or air-dry clay (this product does not need firing) and paint with acrylic paint when dry.

Mapping Me

Paint a large scale map of the local area. Children can put themselves in the picture by collaging their photographs and favourite things to the map.

Larger than Life

Collect images of Australian animals or bushrangers. Turn the photocopies into transparencies. Using an overhead projector, enlarge the images onto large sheets of paper, cut from a roll, so that they are larger than life. Children can work in groups to paint and cut out the shapes.

Storytime

Go to the library and ask children to find a book with an Australian theme. What parts of the story do they like most? Children can retell their favourite parts of the story to a friend, who could then illustrate it using a storyboard or booklet format.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITIES

Line

Using a variety of media such as pencil, pens, crayons, paint and charcoal, children can explore different types of line (such as thick, thin, wiggly, happy, gentle, angry etc). After experimenting with line, children create monoprints or 'one-off' prints. This is a simple method of printmaking that does not require any special equipment. First, roll a layer of block printing ink or paint onto a smooth surface such as sheet of glass, perspex, mirror, laminex or a window perhaps. Have children draw into the ink with the end of a paintbrush. Place a piece of paper over the design, and then peel off to reveal the reversed image on the paper. Re-ink for subsequent prints.

Shape

What were Sidney Nolan's favourite shapes? Children can list all of the shapes that Sidney Nolan used in his paintings. Our shadow is a shape which changes depending on the time of day due to the position of the sun in the sky. Children can trace around the shadows of their friends with thick sticks of pavement chalk at three different times of the day; morning, midday and late afternoon.

Colour

What were Sidney Nolan's favourite colours? Children can list all of the colours that Sidney Nolan used in his paintings. Do you notice that the colour of the sky changes depending on the time of day? Paint large pieces of cartridge paper with acrylic paint in the same colours as those found in the paintings. Allow these to dry. Children can create their own Australian landscape collage by tearing the coloured paper into shapes and gluing them onto a support such as card, thick paper or canvas. Add details with black markers when dry.

Texture

Look at the way Sidney Nolan created texture with paint. Children can describe all of the textures that Sidney Nolan painted. Make a small viewfinder for each child by cutting a 4cm x 4cm square from the middle of a sheet of A4 paper. Provide colour reproductions of Sidney Nolan's paintings. Children can move their viewfinders over the image until they find an area with an interesting painted texture. Children can closely observe the selected area with a magnifying glass and make an enlarged painting of what they see on a large square piece of paper using acrylic paint. Provide different tools for applying paint, such as toothbrushes, spatulas, cardboard squeegees, toothpicks, sticks and feathers.

Pattern

Fold a piece of paper in half and then halve it again. Cut out a shape from the folded corner and unfold the paper. The result will be a symmetrical shape. Children can use these cut-outs as stencils to make a pattern of repeated shapes on a large piece of paper with acrylic paint and sponge rollers.

Line, Colour, Shape, Texture and Pattern

Go on an adventure down a wombat hole! What's down there? What does it smell like, sound like, look like? Would there be lots of rooms, any furniture or stairs? Are there curtains, comfy couches and artworks on the wall? Children can use paint, mixed media and collage materials to make an artwork about their adventure down the wombat hole.

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

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM LINKS

Visual Arts

Foundation to Year 2 Band Description

In Foundation to Year 2, students explore visual arts. They learn about how to make visual representations of their ideas, experiences, observations and imagination. They share their artworks with peers and experience visual arts as audiences. Learning in Visual Arts builds on the Early Years Learning Framework. Students are engaged through [purposeful play](#) in structured activities, fostering a strong sense of wellbeing and developing students' connection with and contribution to the world.

Students become aware of how and why [artists](#), craftspeople and designers present their ideas through different visual representations, [practices](#), processes and [viewpoints](#). They learn how their ideas or subject matter can be developed through different [forms](#), styles, techniques, [materials](#) and [technologies](#). They enhance their perception skills by learning to notice visual detail as they examine and represent familiar and new objects and events in their lives. They explore how and why artworks are created and become familiar with using and applying [visual conventions](#), such as line, shape, colour and texture. They develop and apply safe and sustainable [practices](#) when experimenting with different [materials](#), techniques and [technologies](#).

Students undertake visual arts suitable to their level of development. As they make and respond to visual artworks, students explore meaning and interpretation, [forms](#) and styles through social and cultural contexts. They provide opinions about artworks expressing what they like and why. They experience the [role](#) of artist and [audience](#) and they respond to feedback in their visual arts making.

Foundation to Year 2 Content Descriptions

Examples of knowledge and skills

Explore ideas, experiences, observations and imagination to create visual artworks and design [\(ACAVAM106\)](#)

Use and experiment with different [materials](#), techniques, [technologies](#) and processes to make artworks [\(ACAVAM107\)](#)

Create and display artworks to communicate ideas to an [audience](#) [\(ACAVAM108\)](#)

Respond to visual artworks and consider where and why people make visual artworks, starting with visual artworks from Australia [\(ACAVAR109\)](#)

We would love to know if you discover other relevant curriculum links when working with this program. Email your suggestions to nolan@act.gov.au