

MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER

NGA LAUNCHES PLAYFUL PALACE FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Spend the summer frolicking with free family fun at a mini palace of delights at the National Gallery of Australia. Inspired by the upcoming major exhibition, *Versailles: Treasures from the Palace*, NGA Play opens today and is a creative space for the young at heart

‘NGA Play is an exciting initiative that allows children to get involved with art play,’ said NGA Deputy Director, Kirsten Paisley. ‘Whilst we kick off with *Versailles*, the space will transform at different times of the year with artists and designers working with the gallery to deliver spectacular new interactive installations in line with the current exhibition. We are very grateful to Tim Fairfax AC, whose generous support, given in memory of former NGA Director Betty Churcher AO and her passion for visual arts education, has enabled the NGA to create NGA Play for families and children.’

Activities include larger than life Marie-Antoinette and Louis XIV cut outs (complete with slides), an interactive topiary garden, a *Latona* fountain of light, a child-sized Hall of Mirrors, crown-making, weaving, and drawing.

‘This mini-palace provides all ages with a unique way to experience the exhibition, and to learn about a defining time in French history,’ said Ms Paisley. ‘Children can choose their own adventure, immersing themselves as a king, queen, or courtier, or by creating their own palace—complete with plumbing and fountains!’

Workshops and holiday programs are also on offer nga.gov.au/calendar/

NGA Play is free and open daily from 10am-5pm. NGA Play is made possible through the support of Tim Fairfax in honour of Betty Churcher.

Children 16 and under are free to enter *Versailles: Treasures from the Palace*, accompanied by a ticket-holding adult.

Versailles: Treasures from the Palace opens 9 December.

Social media:

Facebook: @NationalGalleryof Australia

Instagram: @NationalGalleryAus

Twitter: @NatGalleryAus

High resolution images available on request

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