

NGA

National Gallery of Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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TEENS TAKE OVER THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF AUSTRALIA

Teens are invited to take over the National Gallery of Australia this December to celebrate the launch of Art IRL ('in real life'), the Gallery's new program connecting young audiences with art, artists and each other.

Art IRL offers regular real-life encounters with art that are co-produced by teens, for teens and is the first program of its kind for the Gallery and one of the few teen-exclusive offerings in Canberra.

National Gallery of Australia Director Nick Mitzevich said Art IRL was a significant new contribution to a broader reimagining of the Gallery's programs for audiences in their formative years.

"By championing the value of visual arts to our younger audiences, the Gallery joins a global community of cultural institutions who see teens as active players in making and forging culture," Mr Mitzevich said.

As a part of Art IRL, the Gallery will host several teen-exclusive events onsite, online and on tour throughout the year, all developed with the Gallery's Teen Council.

Inspired by the art and ideas that shape our exhibitions, Art IRL will boast artist-led workshops, performances, live music, snacks and social activities responding to real world trends, technology and issues all year round.

On Saturday 7 December, teens can get creative, dance, learn and make some noise with professional artists and hundreds of other teens with the dynamic **Art IRL: Teen Takeover** program featuring:

Australian War Memorial | Bangarra Dance Theatre | Canberra Symphony Orchestra Canberra Youth Theatre | Canberra Glassworks | Girls Rock! Canberra headspace | National Film and Sound Archive | National Museum of Australia National Portrait Gallery | QL2 Dance | Royal Australian Mint University of Canberra | Warehouse Circus

“Art IRL will always maintain a focus on peer-led learning, with programming developed in collaboration with the Gallery’s Teen Council and the Canberran arts and youth sectors, who have come together to deliver an out-of-this-world program for the Gallery’s first Teen Takeover,” said Celeste Aldahn, the National Gallery of Australia’s Tim Fairfax Program Producer.

Art IRL has been modelled on successful initiatives at peer organisations worldwide and builds on the Whitney Museum of American Art’s 2015 report, [Room to Rise: The Lasting Impact of Intensive Teen Programs in Art Museums](#).

Generously supported by National Gallery Education Patron Tim Fairfax AC, Art IRL programs are facilitated by Gallery staff, hosts and artist-educators, and – most importantly – are completely parent and teacher free.

Art IRL: Teen Takeover will be held on Saturday 7 December, 6.00 - 9.00pm. Free and exclusive to young audiences aged 13 - 18 years. Snacks and drinks provided. [Register now](#).

For more information on Art IRL, visit nga.gov.au/artirl/

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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IMAGES

Available for download from <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/375rl4hzymuf04c/AABRCxL4PMWK1oV-IF6847rLa?dl=0>

Caption: Uji 'Hahan' Handoko Eko Saputro Silent operation: Sign study based on the formula of contemporary (visual) art 2018-19, installation comprising neon wall-works and interactive game application, National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, Commissioned and purchased 2019