Bodies

Works from the VCA Art Collection +

playlists by Nicholas Currie, James Farrar, Jingxuan Chen, Pippa Lukaitis, Grace Davey

Acknowledging the 50th anniversary of the Victorian College of the Arts (2022), the exhibition Bodies combines works by early generations of students at the National Gallery Art School with playlists devised by 5 current third year students. Together the paintings and the playlists form a snapshot of the shifts in student activity from the late 19th century to the early 21st century.

‘Despite the limitations imposed by the rigours of prescribed subject matter, techniques, and palette, many of the student works are striking for the way they engage us so directly. The sitters, whether professional models or fellow students – or people enticed into the School by students whose search for subjects extended to the surrounding streets, and to the gaunt and sunburned men from a nearby refuge for alcoholics – are in the main, entirely recognizable as individuals. It is this individuality, together with an often remarkable technical confidence, that gives many of the works a compelling presence and make it difficult to view them simply as ‘student exercises.’

Jacqueline Macnaughtan, From Life, works by early generations of students at the National Gallery Art School, 2004

Room 1 left to right

Myer Daniel Altson (1881-1965)

No title, (life study, reclining man, 1902, oil on canvas

Hugh Ramsey (1877-1906)

No title (life study, seated woman, three quarter length), c 1897-99, oil on canvas

Pascoe Redwood

No title (standing man, three quarter length) c1928, oil on canvas

Charles Wheeler (1880-1977)

No title (male nude with arms behind head) 1907, oil on canvas

Constance Winifred Honey

No title (life study of half nude male from back), c.1910, oil on canvas

Marion Jones

No title, (life study, seated boy, c.1916, oil on canvas

Hugh Ramsey (1877-1906)

No title, (life study, boy’s head from back, 1897, oil on canvas on composition board

Hugh Ramsey (1877-1906)

No title, (life study, seated girl from back, c.1896-98, oil on canvas on board

Unknown artist

No title (life study female half nude), c1910, oil on canvas

Room 2 left to right

Constance Winifred Honey

No title (life study of red bearded male half nude from back), c.1910, oil on canvas

George James Coates

No title (life study, half-length male figure red hair) 1985, oil on canvas

Marion Jones

No title, (life study, half nude young woman, front view) c.1916, oil on canvas

Unknown artist

No title (life study male half nude from side), c1920, oil on canvas

Constance Parkin

No title, (life study, seated man, three quarters from side) c.1926, oil on canvas

Grace Joel

No title, (life study, back of female) 1893, oil on canvas

James Peter Quinn

No title, (life study, seated man half-length from side) 1893, oil on canvas

Marion Jones

No title, (life study, seated woman, three quarter length from back) c.1916, oil on canvas

Eric Spencer Mackey

No title, (life study, old male half nude from front, seated) 1905, oil on canva

Playlist order

Jingxuan Chen

Theme from ‘in the Mood for Love’ – Shigeru Umebayashi

Island (queen of diamonds) – The Black Skirts

Qíng Gē – Sandee Chan

Jungle Drums – Xavier Cugat

Age of Bloom (Hua Yang De Nianhua) – Zhou Xuan

Gianni Morandi – In ginocchio da te

Nat King Cole – Quizas, Quizas, Quizas (Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps)

Sunset Rollercoaster – Burgundy Red

Grace Davey

Lust for Life – Iggy Pop

Take Your Mama – Scissor Sisters

St. James Infirmary Blues – The White Stripes

Don’t Hurt Yourself (feat. Jack White) – Beyoncé, Jack White

Ain’t Nothing Changed – Loyle Carner

1977 – Ana Tijoux

Nicholas Currie

OG Luv Kush pt.2 – Kaiit

SMUCKERS (feat. Lil Wayne & Kanye West) – Tyler, The Creator, Lil Wayne, Kanye West

No More Parties In LA – Kanye West

Guess Again – JK-47, DREDUB

King Brown – Barkaa

fafo – Zack Fox

My City – ONEFOUR, The Kid LAROI

Mission Famous – Tasman Keith

We Major – Kanye West, Nas, Really Doe

Inescapable - Youngboyz Mix – Jessica Mauboy

Hard Yakka – Lisi

James Farrar

Fernando – ABBA

Chiquitita – ABBBA

Everybody Wants To Rule The World – Tears For Fears

Real Men – Joe Jackson

At Seventeen – Janis Ian

Tiny Dancer – Elton John

Pippa Lukaitis

Gazin’ – Ringo Deathstarr

Mary’s Theme – Stelvio Cipriani

Tendre Sam – Vladimir Cosma

She Will Destroy You – Cocteau Twins, Harold Budd

Wandering Star – Portishead

One Step Ahead – Split Enz

Day of the Lords - 2007 Remaster – Joy Division

Dirge – Death In Vegas

Crucify Your Mind – Rodríguez