Introduction

This exhibition includes works that use a variety of media and explores the relationship between the horse and Australian society, history and culture. The exhibition consists of work by some of Australia's most notable artists such as John Brack, Richard Goodwin, Hans Heysen, Noel McKenna, Julie Rrap, Ken Whisson, Fred Williams and Anne Zahalka, together with works by a number of emerging artists.

Cultural Icons

A cultural icon is an image or symbol that is easily recognised and significant to a particular group. That object has a special status and is very important to that cultural group.

The Horse

Having played a large part in Australia's history, the horse is considered an icon in Australian culture. From the excitement of the Melbourne Cup, the epic Man From Snowy River to the legendary Phar Lap, horses have the power to capture the imagination of our nation. The horse is an animal of power and beauty and has been used since pioneer days for business and pleasure.

Australian National Identity

Australia is a country of diverse cultures, images and people. The way we view ourselves as a nation has been shaped by events and people. In art and literature images of the horse have been used to establish national identity. From the legendary wild brumbies of Banjo Patterson's epic poem The Man From Snowy River, the working stock horses in the outback, to Australia's oldest sport - horse racing - the horse has been depicted in Australian art extensively as part of our national heritage.

The Man From Snowy River

The Man from Snowy River is one of Australia’s most famous poems and was written by Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson. It is set in the Snowy Mountains, part of the Australian high country, where many of Australia's post colonial myths and traditions of identity originated.

The poem tells the story of ‘The Man from Snowy River’ who through his courage and skill becomes a legend when he is able to return a runaway horse to its owner. Europeans settled in the Australian Alps in the 1830s and long term grazing had a negative impact on this sensitive environment. Much of the high country is now part of the network of national parks and wilderness areas which make up the Australian Alps National Parks system.
Knowledge and Understanding

The horse racing industry in Australian is of great cultural, social, economic and historical significance in Australia.
+ What Australian icons are present in Tom Moore’s The Vegemite Cup?
+ Describe the different media that the artist has used to create the artwork.
+ What aspects of this artwork can be associated with horse racing?

Creating

Design a jockey’s racing silks - Students design a pattern for a jockey’s racing silk shirt. Students select colours and pattern to create an exciting design.

Presenting

Students prepare a presentation on the topic of Australian Cultural Identity. In groups of two, students are told they have been chosen to represent Australia on a cultural exchange program. They are to investigate some of the people, events and images of Australia that help define Australian cultural identity.

Responding

Identify the artworks in the exhibition which deal with the subject of horse racing. Select two and compare the styles of each. What are the similarities and differences?

Reflecting

Reflect on Banjo Patterson’s poem The Man From Snowy River. From his lyrical description, imagine what The Man From Snowy River’s horse looks like. Are there are images of horses in the exhibition that are similar to ‘...something of a racehorse undersized’?

**Information**

**Education Kit produced by Maree Purnell (Public Programs Intern, QUT Art Museum)**

The curriculum links for Years 11-12 included in this resource have been developed from curriculum documents Assessment and Reporting Framework for The Arts, focusing on learning and assessment around the Essential Learnings and Standards for Visual Art and Media (© The State of Queensland, Queensland Studies Authority, 2007) Senior Syllabus: Visual Art (© The State of Queensland, Queensland Studies Authority, 2007). http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/syllabus/1183.html

**Bloodlines: Art and the Horse**

11 April - 7 June

**FREE ENTRY**

QUT Art Museum
2 George Street (next to City Botanic Gardens)
Brisbane Q 4000
07 3138 5370
artmuseum@qut.com

QUT Art Museum is proudly supported by

Kay and Robert Bryan
The Lee Foundation

Curated by Peter Fay
Presented by Hawkesbury Regional Gallery

**Opening Hours**

Tuesday - Friday 10am - 5pm
Wednesday 10am - 8pm
Saturday and Sunday 12pm-4pm

**References**

**Further Reading**


**Online Resources**

http://www.racingmuseum.com.au

**Tours**

Free guided tours of Bloodlines: Art and the Horse with the QUT Art Museum Curator (Public Programs) are available for all age groups and interests. Tours must be booked in advance. Phone 07 3138 5370 or email artmuseum@qut.edu.au to make your booking.