

## Van Gogh exhibition comes to the National Gallery of Victoria in 2017

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Seeing a van Gogh up close for the first time is a one-of-a-kind experience – all those masterful textures seem to make his scenes jump out of the canvas and suck you into it at the same time. Next year Melburnians will be treated to all this and more with an exclusive exhibition spanning more than 60 of the great artist's works at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Years in the making, *Van Gogh and the Seasons* is curated by Sjraah van Heugten, the former head of collections at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. The exhibition will take visitors on a journey through the four seasons, which formed "such an important subject" for the post-Impressionist artist and his exploration of colour.

"There is almost no equal as an artist that keeps a grip on you," says van Heugten. "One of the best things is you can get very close to him and the person that he was," he says – not least due to the many letters the troubled artist left behind.

Some of those letters will be on display in the exhibition, along with about 25 drawings and 40 paintings. These include some of the "most important treasures" lent from galleries all over the world, says van Heugten, including from the Van Gogh Museum and the Kroller-Muller Museum in the Netherlands; the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; and private galleries.

Among them is *Vase with Cornflowers and Poppies*, recreated here with real flowers by Fitzroy florist Flowers Vasette:





But van Heugten's favourite painting in the exhibition is *Pine Trees and Dandelions in the Garden of Saint-Paul Hospital*. "It is not maybe as well known [as some of the other pieces but it is as much of a masterpiece," he says.

*Van Gogh and the Seasons* forms the NGV's Winter Masterpieces season for 2017, opening in April.

## Art through the seasons

The NGV announced dozens of exhibitions and events for its autumn and winter season on Friday in addition to the van Gogh coup.

From December works from major Indigenous female artists including Queenie McKenzie, Destiny Deacon and Emily Kame Kngwarreye will be shown together for the first time in *Who's Afraid of Colour*.

From March the NGV will host its largest photographic show, the *NGV Festival of Photography*, spanning 11 galleries and including works by Bill Henson, William Eggleston and more.

Contemporary Japanese multimedia artist Miyanaga Akira comes to the gallery this November while next July Hokusai – painter of *The Great Wave* and hailed as one of the fathers of modern manga – gets his first dedicated exhibition in Australia.

More information on the full program can be found at the [National Gallery of Victoria website](http://www.nationalgallery.vic.gov.au).

*This story was found at: <http://www.theage.com.au/entertainment/art-and-design/melbourne-arts/van-gogh-exhibition-comes-to-the-national-gallery-of-victoria-in-2017-20160916-grhq4.html>*