

CHILDREN'S TRAIL



# SIDNEY NOLAN

RETROSPECTIVE

ART  
GALLERY  
NSW

Have fun exploring the exhibition  
**Sidney Nolan: Retrospective**  
and make some art of your own

**Collect**  
a pencil



**Go** on a journey  
through the  
exhibition



**Discover**  
the paintings

★ **Look, draw and have fun!**



## SIDNEY NOLAN RETROSPECTIVE

Travel from beach to bush, through Australia, Africa, Antarctica and beyond to discover the imaginative world of Sidney Nolan.

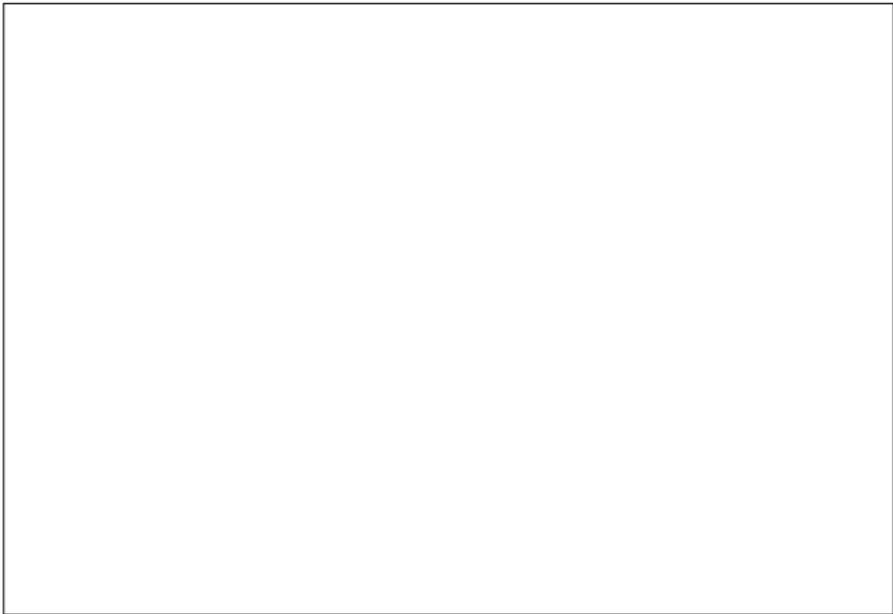
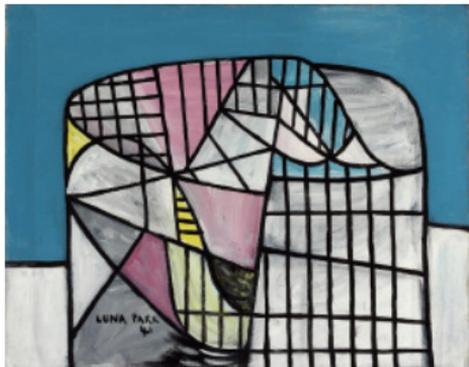
above: Ned Kelly 1946, Ripolin enamel on hardboard. National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, gift of Sunday Reed 1977 © National Gallery of Australia; cover: Self portrait 1943 (detail) Ripolin enamel on hessian sacking on hardboard. Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, purchased with funds provided by the Art Gallery Society of New South Wales 1997 © The Trustees of the Sidney Nolan Trust

★ **Whizz** round to find this roller coaster.

**Follow** the lines with your eyes. Where do you start and finish the ride?

Have you ever been to an amusement park?  
What did you ride on?

**Draw** your favourite ride or **invent** your own below.



**At home** make your own 'roller coaster' using cardboard tubes, tape and recycled materials, and roll marbles or small balls through your construction.



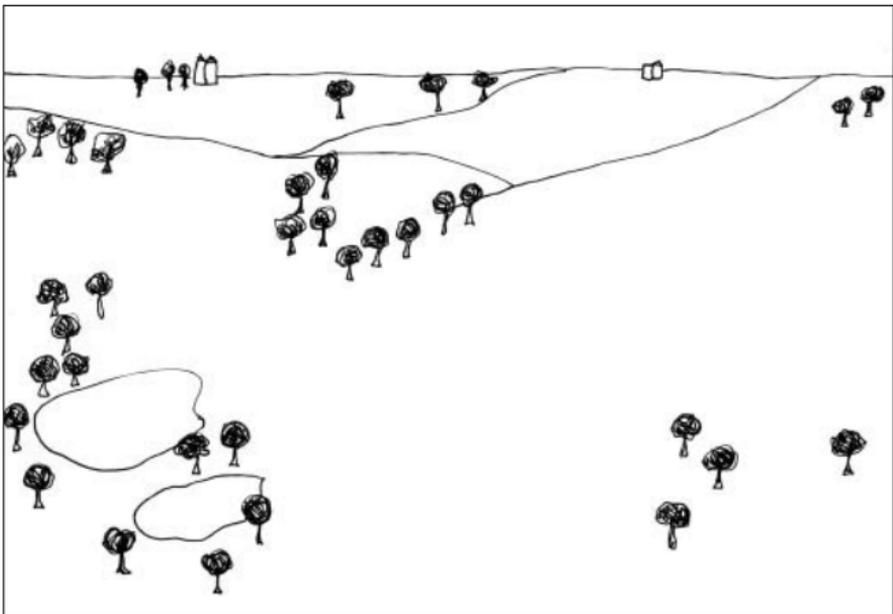
★ **Here** is a view of the Wimmera district of Victoria.

**Look** at the colours Nolan has used. Are they warm or cool? Only a small strip of sky can be seen; why do you think that is?

Can you see any buildings?  
What are they?  
(Clue: Nolan saw lots of wheat fields in the Wimmera)



**Draw** yourself in this landscape scene and **add** more trees and buildings.



**At home locate** the Wimmera on a map. Has it changed since 1943? Paint your own landscape, real or imaginary, and think carefully about the colours you use.



★ **Here** is a scene from Nolan's childhood.

Where are they? What time of year is it? Which one could be Nolan? **Imagine** what they are saying to each other.

**Role-play** their conversation.

**Find** other paintings that show scenes from Nolan's childhood. Are they all happy memories?



**Design** a beach towel in this rectangle for Nolan to take to the beach.



**At home sketch** your own family somewhere that you love to visit and spend time together.



★ **Find** the famous bushranger Ned Kelly.

**Look** closely at all of the paintings in this series and **observe** how Nolan paints landscape views or Kelly's eyes in the slit of his helmet. How do they make you feel?

**Draw** your favourite one in this rectangle and **fold** the next page over it to **create** your own Ned Kelly mask.



Ned Kelly 1946 (detail), Ripolin enamel on hardboard  
National Gallery of Australia, Canberra, gift of  
Sunday Reed 1977 © National Gallery of Australia

**Use** the cut-out as a viewfinder.  
How does the world look  
through this small slit?

**At home find out** more about the Kelly Gang and their adventures. Imagine you are part of the gang and write an imaginative story about Ned Kelly. Research his famous armour and find out where it is now.





★ **Fly** over this dramatic landscape.

Nolan travelled over the Australian desert in an aeroplane and took lots of aerial photos to work from.

The landscape almost looks alien. What does it remind you of? Would you like to **travel** through this place?



**Draw** the special equipment you would need to take with you to cross this mysterious land.

**Step** into this painting and **tell** a tale about your adventure. **Write** it below.

Central Australia 1950, enamel and oil on hardboard. Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, purchased with funds provided by the Nelson Meers Foundation 2004 © The Trustees of the Sidney Nolan Trust

**At home find** other bird's-eye-views of Australia in books, maps and on the internet. Can you find an aerial view of where you live?



★ **Meet** this big African baboon.

Nolan loved poetry and travelled to Africa in the footsteps of his hero, the poet Rimbaud. He became interested in the animals he saw there and their use of camouflage.

**Observe** how Nolan has painted the land and sky behind the baboon. Does it remind you of anything?

**Find** other animals in this room.

**Compare** how Nolan has painted them. Which one is your favourite? Why?



Baboon 1963, oil on hardboard. Private collection  
© The Trustees of the Sidney Nolan Trust

**Write** a poem about your favourite animal, starting each line with letters of 'animal'.

A \_\_\_\_\_

N \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_

M \_\_\_\_\_

A \_\_\_\_\_

L \_\_\_\_\_

**At home make** a collage of this baboon painting using strips of ripped tissue paper.



★ **Swoop** into this icy scene.

Nolan spent two weeks in Antarctica exploring the icy mountains, sea and snow.

**Examine** how Nolan has scraped the paint to make it look like ice. What colours can you **detect**?

**Notice** how the bird is outlined against the dark sky. Where will it find food and shelter?

**Draw** this bird flying into a very different, hotter scene.



*Bird* 1964, oil on hardboard. Private collection  
© The Trustees of the Sidney Nolan Trust  
Photograph courtesy Art Exhibitions Australia



**At home find out** what animals survive in Antarctica. Research if they stay there all year, or travel to other parts of the world. Paint a picture of one of the animals you discover.

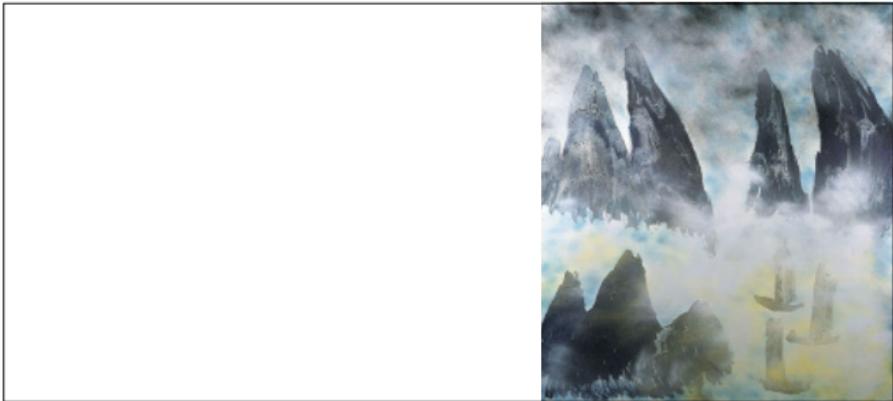


★ **Sail** into this tranquil, misty picture.

**Study** the surface of the painting. Can you tell it is spray painted? What special effects can you see? **Role-play** how Nolan would have moved the spray across the picture.

**Spot** the three boats sailing below the mountains. Where are they going? **Describe** what the weather is like.

**Extend** the picture to show where the boats are going.



**At home discover** the art of Chinese scrolls and landscape painting that Nolan would have seen on his travels. Make your own scroll and paint it with mountains, streams and trees.

Chinese mountain landscape with three boats c1982, acrylic and lacquer spray on canvas  
Private collection © The Trustees of the Sidney Nolan Trust. Photograph courtesy Agnew's, London

## SIDNEY NOLAN RETROSPECTIVE

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY  
2 November 2007 – 3 February 2008

NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA, MELBOURNE  
22 February – 18 May 2008

QUEENSLAND ART GALLERY, BRISBANE  
6 June – 31 August 2008

Principal sponsor: Ernst and Young  
Supported by: President's Council,  
Qantas, Delta Electricity

Written by Victoria Collings  
Designed by Karen Hancock  
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Art Gallery of New South Wales 2007