

DESIGNING LETTERS WITH MELBOURNE ART BOOK FAIR

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTION SHEET



The Melbourne Art Book Fair is an annual festival presented by the National Gallery of Victoria that celebrates art publishing and contemporary print culture. The Fair brings together artists, designers, writers and independent publishers to share books, zines and printed matter with the public. Through exhibitions, talks, workshops and hands-on activities, the program explores how ideas are shared through text, images and design. This outreach activity extends the Fair beyond the gallery, inviting communities across the state to engage with typography and publishing through making and play.

WHAT:

A relaxed, hands-on activity where children explore letter shapes and typography by tracing, writing their name, and playing with different styles for letters.

WHO IT'S FOR:

Ages 5–12 years

Works for mixed ages and abilities

Can be done individually or as a group

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

Printed activity sheets (1 double sided A4, or 2 single sided A4 pages)

Pencils, markers, or crayons



SETTING UP THE SPACE

Tables with chairs or floor cushions

Materials placed in the centre for children to help themselves to a few spare sheets available for retries or siblings

Nice to add (optional):

- Thick markers for tracing confidence
- Clipboards if tables are limited
- A small display of finished sheets

KEY THINGS TO ENCOURAGE:

Tracing can be messy

Names can be written many times

Letters don't need to look "right"

Thinking about books, signs, and cartoons helps

If a child feels stuck:

- Ask what they like to read or look at
- Ask where they see letters every day
- Suggest making letters taller, rounder, or closer together

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

- Write someone else's name using your letter style or copy a letter style created by someone else
- Swap sheets and add one letter to a friend's page
- Try and copy the text from a book you like

Group or library extensions:

- Display finished sheets on a wall or window
- Ask children to label what their letters could be "used for"
- Create a shared alphabet where each child adds one letter

Discussion prompts:

- Where do we see letters every day?
- How do letters change how something feels?

KEY OUTCOMES

Children will:

- Notice letter shapes in everyday life
- Feel confident experimenting on paper
- Engage with contemporary print culture through play