



SY Gallery Excursion

PHARAOH – The Royal Treatment

On Friday, June 28, the Year 10 Art class visited NGV International to ponder the latest Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition. This was an exclusive tour and viewing of Pharaoh.

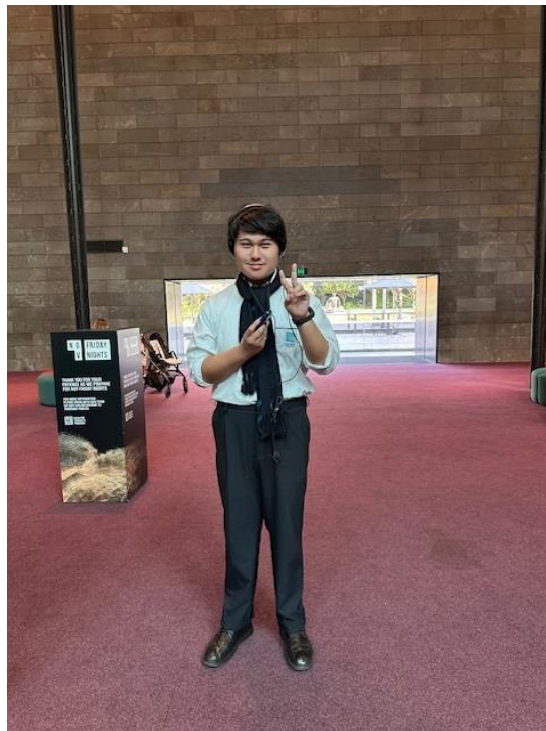
Through partnering with the British Museum, the NGV's Pharaoh exhibition explores the realities, mythologies and iconographies of kingship in ancient Egypt through a carefully curated selection of objects including temple statuary, jewellery, and sarcophagi. Our students explored the life and work of early civilisation together in a shared learning experience, anchored in the world of art and culture.

"Personally, I've had a love of Egypt for many years, and having been to Egypt myself, just can't get enough of its art, jewellery and stories – how great to share this with our students". [Ms. Helmer]

We are deeply grateful for this wonderful way to end off our Arts learning with a satisfying tour marvelling at the cultural heritage of ancient Egypt.



A happy atmosphere pre-tour with the headsets!





KING RAMESSES VI: Fragment of the lid of the monarch's mummiform sarcophagus. Ramesses is shown as Osiris, ruler of the afterlife. 20th Dynasty, reign of Ramesses VI (about 1143-1136 BC). From Western Thebes, Valley of the Kings, Egypt.

Peter King is the Exhibition Designer, and we experience a day into night.

His layout's first thematic is: **Egypt: Land of the Pharaohs.**

Starting in a pre-dawn state, Peter King considers the lighting, colour palette, soundscapes, and materials. Next comes early morning. This timeframe concept continues to the temple display where it is midday and no shadows. We look at the Pharaoh palace, royal family, and jewellery. The officials, scribes, priests are presented in the late afternoon/early evening. Aspects of the afterlife are in the final room – the black box of the underworld, highlighting the divinity of the Pharaoh.



This is a swing tag attached to sandals. Really, it is an ancient version of *Jibbitz*, (like the ones worn on “Crocs”). Pharaohs would have an ivory label tied to their sandals. This one depicts Pharaoh Den – the fourth king of Egypt’s First Dynasty – credited with bringing prosperity to his realm. Pharaoh’s right arm is raised. His left arm holding the hair/headdress of an enemy. This symbol of kingship appears on objects and temple walls too – it is the quintessential image of being triumphant.



JEWELLERY IN LIFE AND DEATH: Men and women were regularly depicted wearing jewellery for embellishment as well as protection. Many people were buried with favourite pieces that were still believed to be effective even after death. Above Left is a painted relief of an un-named woman from the tomb of nomarch (provincial governor) Djehutihotep – Middle Kingdom, twelfth dynasty, c.1900 B.C.



Art students viewing the NGV's Pharaoh exhibition with Liz, (our tour guide).

Pharaoh explores the realities, mythologies and iconographies of kingship in ancient Egypt. Through over 500 objects presented across seven thematic sections, this exhibition introduces the pharaoh's identity and many roles: as high priest, head of the country's administration, leader of the army and head of the royal family.

Pharaohs presented idealized images of themselves as invincible warriors and fervent worshippers of the gods, yet behind these representations the reality of kingship was more complex. Not all pharaohs were male, or even Egyptian. Despite the king's supreme status, Egypt was periodically wracked by civil war, conquered by foreign powers, and governed by competing rulers.

The exhibition also celebrates the exceptional skills of ancient Egyptian artists and craftspeople. Many of their creations present an archetypal image of the pharaohs as they wished to be seen, but there are some objects that reveal a more human perspective. They provide a glimpse into the complexity and challenges of what it must have been like to rule one of the greatest ancient civilisations the world has ever seen.



OSTRACON: like a Post-it! note. These are throw-away flakes of limestone or pottery. Below, we see 4 Ostraca – a donkey's head; a baboon eating figs; text measurements of a queen's tomb; Pharaoh presenting a libation, (proportion right).









Elise & Magdalena with mastaba from a funerary chapel Uirenptah – painted limestone from the 5th Dynasty, (2494-2345 B.C.E.) Saqqara, Egypt. It is 3 metres wide and belonged to a scribe, (most people were illiterate).

Priesthood roles were very powerful. There is an Old Kingdom Papyrus outlining duties and priests' roles in funerary temples.



Priest Horaamesheb incense bearer decorated lid and base.



Coffin detail of Iahmose, 900B.C.E.



Coffin of Iahmose
Thebes, Egypt
22nd Dynasty, about 900 BCE
Wood, plaster

