



## **CONNECT with *Exhibition on Screen***

### **Michelangelo: Love and Death**

#### **Pre-show talk with local artist**

The film is about Michelangelo's relationship with his contemporaries and how his work was influenced by them

So, we've invited a local artists to talk about their practice and the contemporary influences on their work today

Admission to CONNECT is FREE – . approx. 20 mins

#### **About CONNECT**

CONNECT is a new audience development program that provides opportunities for conversations with some of Australia's top arts practitioners and find out more about how their art is made and get behind the scenes of our 2017 season.

If you'd like to stay in touch and receive updates about future CONNECT activities for 2017 or want to make any suggestions for future connect events please contact your local theatre.

If you are new to CONNECT and want to find out more about our future events just call us!

#### **CONNECT notes include:**

About Michelangelo Interesting Facts

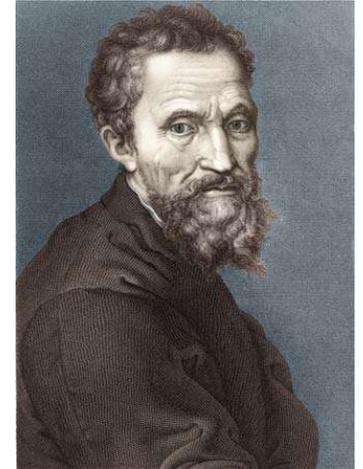
Connect Guest Speaker Bio

Connect Pre show talk Schedule

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## About Michelangelo interesting facts that might surprise you

### He was a world-renowned sculptor, painter, architect and....poet?

Yup, we've all seen his painting and sculpting, but one of the lesser known facts about Michelangelo was that he was a prolific writer as well. He wrote hundreds of letters and poems, more than 300 of which still exist today. The poetry is pretty suggestive, discussing love, lust, and ecstasy, as well as spirituality, loyalty and the human soul.

### He was a forger

Ok, he wasn't a habitual counterfeiter, but he probably got his start in 1496 from copying an ancient Roman sculpture called Sleeping Cupid and passing it off as an original. After completing the reproduction, he buried the statue underground then dug it up to give it a worn, scratched look. Whether from the suggestion of his patron, Lorenzo de Medici, or of his own accord, he ended up selling the piece to Cardinal Riario for a large sum. Though shocking for us today, in the past art forgery, or, uh, embellishment, wasn't quite as frowned upon (it meant that the artist was so good he could copy the greats!) and the sly act ultimately helped the young Michelangelo launch his career.

### He wasn't originally chosen to complete the Sistine Chapel

At the time of Michelangelo's rise, it was Raphael who was the hot painter in town, and it was Raphael who Pope Julius II originally chose to work on the [Sistine Chapel](#). Here's where a bit of rivalry comes in. Michelangelo's fame was growing with his commissions and the young artist was stealing some of Raphael's business. Out of jealousy or pride, Raphael convinced the Pope to hire Michelangelo instead, hoping to prove that the young artist was truly just a sculptor and not able to paint as well as himself. Obviously he was disappointed.

Today more than 25,000 people view the [magnificent chapel](#) every day. It seems as though Michelangelo got the last laugh.

### He painted himself in the Sistine Chapel

Michelangelo put his signature on the Pietà (it was his first sculptural masterpiece and so good that no one believed it could have possibly come from such a young artist, so he inscribed his name on a sash running diagonally across the Virgin Mary's chest). But after that he never signed another work of art. Instead, he would often paint himself into them. The most famous of these self-portraits is in The Last Judgment fresco that covers an entire wall of the Sistine Chapel. There, St. Bartholomew is holding the skin of a face that appears to be Michelangelo's.

### **The David, was carved from a discarded block of marble.**

Of all the facts about Michelangelo and his career, this is maybe the most impressive. Though notoriously picky about the marble he used, Michelangelo chose a tall, slender piece for the [David](#), leading many to believe that the sculpture would be impossible. Called the "Giant", the marble slab had been quarried and then abandoned for over 40 years before Michelangelo claimed it. The stone had deteriorated and grown rough from the elements and already had more than one chisel mark in its surface.

Still, Michelangelo was able to create a nearly 17-foot tall statue of David, deemed structurally perfect by the world's best artists and sculptures. This is why, despite the crowds that flock to it, [it's a must-see](#). Now we just need to hope it lasts, as recent analyses have revealed that the marble's poor quality has contributed to the sculpture's faster-than-usual deterioration.

### **He had terrible fashion sense, and a habit of making people angry**

Michelangelo never married and had no children, but is rumored to have had love affairs with men and women alike. Though he grew to be a rich man, the interesting fact about Michelangelo was that he lived in near squalor and rarely changed his clothes or even bathed. It's said that his clothes were so dirty and plastered on his body that when he died they needed to be cut and peeled off of him. In old age the artist lived a solitary life, only coming into contact with others when forced to by work.

Michelangelo lived up to many of the classic artist personality traits. He was harsh on himself and his work. In one of his many letters about his work on the Sistine Chapel he famously wrote, "I am not a painter." He was often dissatisfied and known for his critical, volatile moods. In fact, one of his peers, Pietro Torrigiano, was so angry with Michelangelo for his talent – or perhaps his smart mouth – that he punched him in the nose, leaving it permanently crooked.

### **He was the first person to have an autobiography published during his lifetime**

Despite, or maybe because of his interesting personality, Italians adored Michelangelo, both during his time and after. He was known as "Il Divino", or the Divine, and everyone wanted to know the facts of his life, or at least a colorful recounting of them. This is likely what led Michelangelo to publish not one, but two full length autobiographies in his lifetime.

In fact, we know much more about Michelangelo's opinions, life and work than any other artist from his time. Besides his autobiographies, we know about the artist from letters and diaries of the people who came in contact with him, artists' sketches who admired him, as well as the many documents that survive today from the government or papal bureaucracy. Having been commissioned for many government or papal projects, each project was meticulously recorded and kept, giving us insight into the work, timeline and pay of Michelangelo's lifetime.

## CONNECT Guest Speakers

**6.30pm Wed 26<sup>th</sup> July Northern Festival Centre, Port Pirie**  
**Meet Yorke Peninsula Artist: Bob Landt**

In my words "WHY DO I PAINT?"

As long as I remember I've wanted to paint and please others with what I do. I guess much of this comes from living with both grandparents and then later coming to Adelaide as a child to live in Carrington Street city in the 1950's. Parents, Grandparents, family friends and teachers all had an influence on what I do today. My grandparents were from farming and blacksmithing stock. My parents owned automotive repair shops and sold new and used automobiles. I still have the smell of coke fires, hot steel, oil and petrol deeply imbedded in my nostrils. My spiritual paintings come with a close association with my aboriginal friends and my experience of the church as a child. These things all have driven me to paint. I am proudly self-taught; but where the ideas and thoughts for the paintings come from I really don't know. I constantly sketch in ink for later works to be completed usually in strong watercolour. I would suggest don't be afraid of where the world takes you. Don't set up barriers and work for your own enjoyment. Be true to yourself and others. Use your imagination.  
Bob Landt.



**6.30pm Tues 1 August Middleback Arts Centre**  
**Meet Whyalla Artist: Olivia White**

Olivia Ann White (b.1990) is a young emerging artist, living and working in Whyalla. She graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Visual Communication in 2012. Since completing her studies she has continued to develop her practice.

Olivia's work blends realism and distorted landscape created from sampling her environment; resulting in richly coloured oil paintings and dimensional painted paper cut works. Her current practice is primarily focused on escapism. The signature shapes recurring in this work are drawn from local topography and referred to as the fragments. While the figures in her work sit in spaces simultaneously the foreground and background creating empty or indefinable space in the work.

**1.30pm Sat 5 August Chaffey Theatre**

**Guest Speaker Riverland Artist: Yvette Frahn**

My name is Yvette Frahn, I specialise in equestrian art concentrating on fine art works and also now offering prints to reach a wider market.

It is my vision to create very personal and emotive works of art for each individual. The spirit.

I aim to connect the owner of each work very intimately to their subject matter – just as I do as I create each unique piece.

These images are intensely vibrant and exude life. My work is timeless but it captures a special time in the life of each subject and client.

I am based at Bugle Hut in my beautifully restored stone 'Tractor Shed' art studio on the family farm in the Riverland, South Australia. Please click on contact us if you would like to find out more about how I can produce that special work of art of your favourite horse.



**6.30pm 24 August Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre**

**Guest Speaker Mt Gambier artist: Luke Pellen**

Eclectic and Improvisational are two of my most favourite words. I have a varied artistic background: I have had experience composing, improvising and performing music; I also enjoy writing, and have had some fiction and non-fiction material published; and for the past 15 years I have also been engaged in amateur and professional theatre, including stand-up comedy, short film and TV commercials.

As a visual artist who works predominantly with ink/pencils and digital, my focus has always been on the rapid development of ideas utilising surrealist techniques such as automatic drawing. My images often depict strange contraptions, or figures, or faces. They draw on the humour of surrealism and absurdism, but they often also explore the darker realms of the psyche in the form of alienation, the psychotic fragmentation of the self, social anxiety and depression.

**PRE FILM TALK SCHEDULE**

<b>VENUES</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>PRE Film TALK</b>	<b>SCREENING TIME</b>	<b>Pre</b>
<b>Northern Festival Centre</b>	Wed 26 July	6.30pm	7pm	<b>Guest Speaker: Bob Landt</b> <b>Inquiries</b> : contact Bianca on 8633 5800
<b>Middleback Arts Centre</b>	Tue 1 August	6.30pm	7pm	<b>Guest Speaker Olivia White</b> <b>Inquiries</b> : contact Jenna on 8644 7300
<b>Chaffey Theatre</b>	Sat 5 August	1.30pm	2pm	<b>Guest Speaker Yvette Frahn</b> <b>Inquiries</b> : contact Nicole on 8586 1800
<b>Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre</b>	24 August	6.30pm	7pm	<b>Guest Speaker Luke Pellen</b> <b>Inquiries</b> : contact Caitlin on 8723 8743