



# Media Release

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## Spowers & Syme

A National Gallery Touring Exhibition  
Saturday 16 July to Sunday 16 October 2022



Ethel Spowers  
*School is out 1936*  
linocut, printed in colour inks, from five blocks  
National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra  
Purchased 1976



Eveline Syme  
*The factory 1933*  
linocut, printed in colour inks, from four blocks  
National Gallery of Australia, Kamberri/Canberra  
Purchased 1979  
© Estate of Eveline Syme

Geelong Gallery is delighted to present National Gallery of Australia Touring Exhibition, *Spowers & Syme* opening on Saturday 16 July 2022.

Celebrating the artistic friendship of Melbourne artists Ethel Spowers and Eveline Syme, the *Know My Name* touring exhibition presents the changing face of interwar Australia through the perspective of two pioneering women artists.

The **National Gallery's Curator of Australian Prints and Drawings, Dr Sarina Noordhuis-Fairfax** hopes that Geelong and Victorian audiences will add the names Spowers and Syme to their knowledge of ground-breaking women artists from the era including Margaret Preston, Thea Proctor, Dorrit Black and Grace Cossington Smith.

'Spowers and Syme are often overlooked in Australian art history, yet during the 1930s they were recognised by peers as being among the most progressive artists working in Melbourne.'

'Exhibiting in Australia and England, they championed key ideas from European modernism such as contemporary art reflecting the pace and vitality of life,' said Noordhuis-Fairfax.

Much-loved for their dynamic approach to lino and woodcut prints, *Spowers & Syme* offers rare insights into the creative alliance between the daughters of rival media families from Melbourne-

based newspapers *The Argus* and *The Age*. After studying art together in Paris and London, Spowers and Syme returned to the conservative art world of Australia where they became enthusiastic exponents of modern art during the 1930s and 40s.

**Geelong Galley Director & CEO, Jason Smith** says 'We look forward to sharing the important works of Spowers and Syme and exploring their contributions further through a number of public and education programs. *Spowers & Syme* will be further contextualised by modernist works by women artists in our Geelong permanent collection including a major survey of printmaker, Barbara Brash.

Curator: Dr Sarina Noordhuis-Fairfax, Curator of Australian Prints and Drawings.

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Exhibition partners

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