

MEDIA RELEASE

## TANABATA: STAR VILLAGE AT MAAS FOR THE JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



Photographs by Haline Ly, courtesy of ArtsPeople

Weave, fold, write, listen, play, imagine and create a colourful paper world at **Tanabata: Star Village** at the **Powerhouse Museum** and **Sydney Observatory** during the July School Holidays.

From 2–17 July, families are invited to enjoy this free, immersive art experience created by Slow Art Collective that will build over the course of the holidays through the collective contributions of visitors of all ages. Add to the growing installation and take part in storytelling sessions, origami, wishing cards, musical galaxies and colourful weaving.

MAAS Director, Dolla Merrillees, said the programs on offer at the Powerhouse and the Observatory were a great way to spend the holidays.

“Tanabata is a Japanese fable which tells the story of two stars, Orihime the cloud weaver and Hikoboshi the cow-herder, who came to fall in love and live in the night sky. Families this holidays can weave their own story at the Powerhouse Museum, or visit the Sydney Observatory where this fable comes to life as these two stars meet on 7 July,” said Ms Merrillees.

Japanese origami artist Midori Furze will visit the Powerhouse Museum for origami workshops each weekend. Join Furze to learn how to fold impressive origami creations at home. Storytelling sessions at the Powerhouse Museum will introduce children to the Japanese fable of Orihime and Hikoboshi and Sydney Observatory will host daily Indigenous astronomy storytelling sessions.

The ever-popular Thinkspace school holiday program expands in July with four new, full day, digital workshops for budding programmers and gamers taking place across both the Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Observatory.

Focusing on creatively engaging kids, these workshops will teach you to master Minecraft, make your own arcade controller, design your on virtual reality game or make your own professional videos.

For the full Thinkspace program visit [www.maas.museum/thinkspace](http://www.maas.museum/thinkspace)

For the full school holiday program visit [maas.museum/school-holidays](http://maas.museum/school-holidays)

## Thinkspace

### **Let's Play YouTube Video Crash Course**, 12-13 July at the Powerhouse Museum

Ages 10–12 \$180

Create a Let's Play video to share with fellow Minecraft and Terraria fans on You Tube. Learn how to produce professional videos with Adobe Premiere and promote them to other Let's Play gamers.

### **Virtual Reality Game Design**, 14 July at the Powerhouse Museum

Ages 9–12 \$100

Design your own VR spaceship simulator using game design elements such as 3D pixel art artwork, music, story development and professional game production engine Unity 5.

### **Make an Arcade Controller**, 4 July at the Powerhouse Museum

(Ages 9–12) \$180

Design and build your very own USB arcade-style controller. Adapt joystick components to a specially designed circuit board to create a working controller that will connect with any computer.

### **Minecraft Minigame Masters**, 13 July at the Powerhouse Museum

(Ages 8–12) \$100

The ideal introduction to Minecraft for children, in a safe and fun environment. Discover new worlds and share Minecraft adventures playing in teams with fellow online explorers.

For the full Thinkspace program visit [www.maas.museum/thinkspace](http://www.maas.museum/thinkspace)

### **Tanabata: Star Village**

Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Observatory

2 – 17 July 10am – 4.30pm daily

Tanabata: Star Village is an ArtsPeople Production in partnership with the Japan Foundation, Sydney

Enquiries and bookings: [maas.museum/school-holidays](http://maas.museum/school-holidays)

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### **About the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences**

The Powerhouse Museum, alongside Sydney Observatory and the Museum Discovery Centre, is part of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (MAAS), Australia's contemporary museum for excellence and innovation in applied arts and sciences. The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences has a vast and diverse collection of over 500,000 objects.