



A Helping Hand

Celebrating the Contribution of the WCHN VOLunteers



Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation



A Helping Hand celebrates the important contribution of volunteers to the Women’s and Children’s Health Network. The exhibition includes photos of many familiar faces of the volunteers along with sketches of the volunteers at work by Adelaide artist, Fran Callen, as well a collaborative artwork created with help from volunteers!

Adelaide artist, Fran Callen, undertook an artist in residence in the Volunteer Department at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital during March and April. Fran spent time getting to know the volunteers in different departments and learning about the important work they do in the Hospital while sketching and collecting ideas.

Her sketches show familiar scenes, from volunteers helping visitors find their way in the

Volunteer Guide Booth to Surgical Services Volunteers helping families prepare for surgery. Fran also spent time in the Volunteer Haven working on a collaborative “Tabletop” drawing on canvas.

Fran’s series of “Tabletop” drawings are made by draping un-stretched canvas like a tablecloth, over a table instead of an easel. Drawings become records of activities that pass by the table as the artist sketches and the table is used. To create this work Fran sketched the objects that appeared during the routines of the Volunteer Haven and invited volunteers to pick up a pencil and join in. Coffee, tea, juice, all become mark-making mediums. The drawing evolves to become a layering of moments, a record of time passing. The narrative of the artworks’ own history



is revealed within its layers. The “Tabletop” drawings have become as much about drawing, as they are about life. Fran completed her Bachelor of Visual Arts at the South Australian School of Art (1997). Following her first solo show at Greenhill Galleries (1999) she won the Ruth Tuck Scholarship in 2003 enabling her to study at Santa Reparata International School of Art, Florence, Italy. Fran completed Honours in Visual Arts at SASA in 2006. She has taught drawing and painting at UniSA since 2008, and taught painting at ACArts, Pine Street Studios (Sydney), and Tauondi Aboriginal College. She was SALA 2016 Artist in Residence at the Central Market. Her drawing ‘Tabletop 1’ won the 2016 Fleurieu Food and Wine Art Prize. Following this she is undertook a mentorship with Christopher Orchard through Guildhouse’s ‘Limber Up’ programme, which lead to an exhibition at BMG Gallery in February 2017. Fran’s most recent works were created as part of ‘The Collections

Project’ working with Flinders Art Museum, and exhibited at ‘The Studio’ Flinders University Campus during SALA2017, and FRANFest.

The exhibition is a collaborative project between the Women’s & Children’s Hospital Foundation Arts in Health Program and the WCHN Volunteer Department in celebration of National Volunteer Week.

National Volunteer Week is the annual celebration to acknowledge the generous contribution of our nation’s volunteers. This year Volunteering Australia is promoting the National Volunteer Week theme: *Give a little. Change a lot.* This years’ theme represents the millions of volunteers who make a profound impact in their communities and on society, through giving a little time.



The Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) raises funds in support of the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide, South Australia. Founded in 1984, the WCH Foundation is committed to ensuring that mums, children and their families have access to the very best in medical care, hospital facilities and support services at a time when they need it the most.

The WCH Foundation has developed a number of Arts in Health programs to integrate art into the life of the Hospital to improve people's health and wellbeing. We try to make the environment more 'child-friendly', making it look better and helping to make the time spent in hospital 'feel better'.

Established in August 2008, the Arts in Health program delivers a range of activities throughout the hospital across art forms such as: Visual Arts and Digital Media, Music and Performing Arts, Public Arts and Integrated Design, Literature and the Therapeutic Arts (Play Therapy, Art Therapy and Music Therapy). From providing pencils and colouring books in waiting areas, to managing Gallery spaces and art displays in the Hospital, collaborating with Hospital School on book week activities and working closely with the Play Therapy Team, the Arts in Health program delivers smiles and fun throughout the Hospital.

The WCH Foundation's Gallery program coordinates four galleries in the Hospital, providing a space away from the stresses of treatment to distract, entertain and inspire, improving the visual environment. The artworks displayed in the exhibition spaces come from a range of sources – internally from hospital staff, patients (women & children) and their families, through Hospital School, or specific Arts in Health activities and externally from local artists and art collectives.

A Helping Hand was planned and exhibited on the lands of the Kaurna People, we pay our respects to the Kaurna Elders past and present and to the Elders of the lands this brochure reaches.



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