



# Poetry about water and one dinosaur

by Michelle Jahn



Women's &  
Children's Hospital  
Foundation



Image: Michelle Jahn, detail of *Tears*



Image: Michelle Jahn, detail of *Jellyfish phenomenon*

Michelle is a re-emerging artist rediscovering her roots and a passion for textiles. Working locally, she is known for creating hand crafted light shades, facilitating technical textile workshops and community based art projects.

For this exhibition Michelle has created sculptural pieces presented in box-frames reflecting her concerns for the environment and the future for the next generation. Using a combination of pen and ink techniques, mixed media and poetry, the artworks are designed to engage and entertain. *"This is an education on water and the care of water, with the over writing of a pun that we will go the way of the dinosaurs if we don't look after our water"*.

Growing up with practical 'can-do' skills Michelle has all the natural abilities to 'live on the land', which translate beautifully in her art practice. She has the ability to make something out of nothing, working with wire, string, rope and a few tools from the shed. Michelle finds herself gravitating to using all these skills, to create her works, sometimes breaking the rules of what is expected of an artist.

Having a diploma in Fabric Design, Michelle combines all her knowledge and techniques to create unique textiles from scratch, printing and dyeing, using the traditional skills to keep them alive, in her art business 'Exclusive Illuminations'; she also teaches and undertakes workshops to pass on these skills and knowledge.

[www.exclusiveilluminations.com.au](http://www.exclusiveilluminations.com.au)

## Poetry about water and one dinosaur

That sand has time attached to it symbolically,  
water has emotions and intuition =

In the Latin 'Aqua vitae' is water of life.

Water has a sense of movement and wears away at rocks.

Winding streams, falling waterfalls, turbulent seas, spray of surf.

We use the same descriptors for emotions, Falling in love, turbulent emotions.

Water is a healing connection through sound and ozone.

The sound of water gurgling in a brook, crashing waves on a beach

Science knows you need the water element for life, without it there is no life.

H<sub>2</sub>O is the element= hydrogen and oxygen.

The lack of respect for water is personal, we need, it's part of our  
eco-system and we are part of that eco-system. If we don't look after  
our water, we will go the way of the dinosaurs.

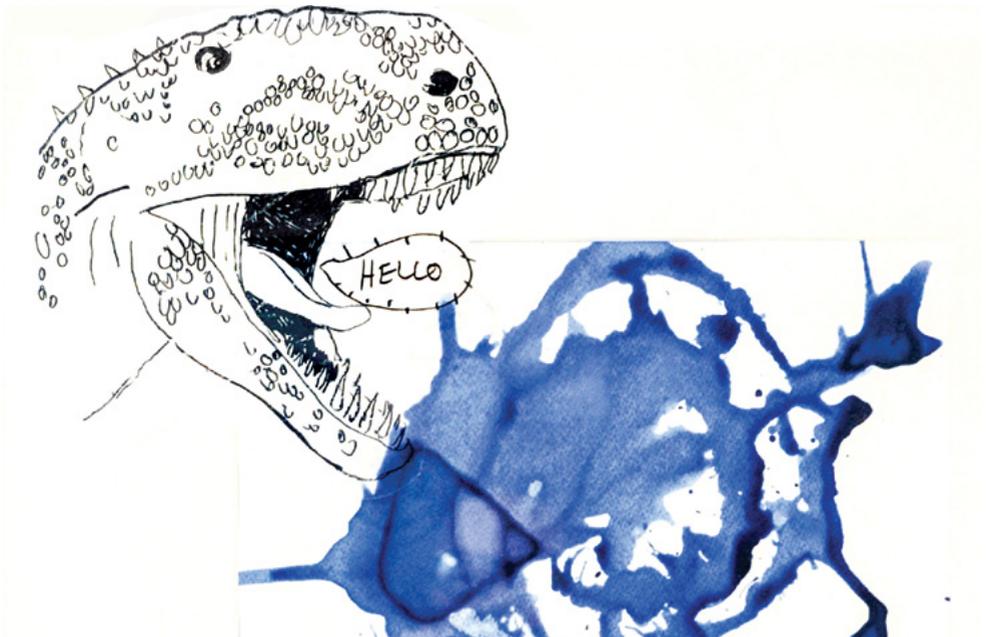


Image: Michelle Jahn, detail of *Loss of life*

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. 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'.

The Arts in Health program delivers a range of activities throughout the hospital across art forms such as: Visual Arts, Digital Media, Music and Performing Arts, Public Art, 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 five 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 specific Arts in Health activities and externally from local artists and art collectives.

This exhibition was planned and exhibited on the lands of the Kurna People, we pay our respects to the Kurna Elders past and present and to the Elders of the lands this brochure reaches.

Poetry about water and one dinosaur is on display in the Orange Heart Gallery (Level 1, Zone E) – Samuel Way walkway, on the way to the Volunteer's Office at the Women's and Children's Hospital from Dec 2018 – end of January 2019.

Cover image: Michelle Jahn, detail of *Water is life giving*



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