

Various beasts and critters

by Wendy Dixon-Whiley



Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation



Image: Wendy Dixon-Whiley, detail of *Eyeball*

Wendy Dixon-Whiley is a Visual-Street Artist working in drawing, painting and experimental practice, known for her trademark playful yet mildly menacing style which incorporates illustrative design principles. Wendy describes her practice as *“an internal visual universe unconfined by rules or restraints, my imagination is captured by the absurd, the silly and irreverent”*.

Born in regional South Australia, Wendy moved to Adelaide to complete a Bachelor of Visual Communication (Illustration Design) and to then study a Post-Graduate Diploma in Marketing. After working outside of the creative industry for several years, Wendy returned to formal study and in 2016 finished studying a Master of Visual Art at the University of South Australia. Wendy regularly shows her work in solo and group exhibitions, undertakes various commissions and actively participates in community and public art projects. *“Somewhere in the space that exists between contemporary and street art exists my work; characterised by a bright & bold style with a sense of humour, but which also contains just a hint of menace behind a friendly outward appearance”*

For this exhibition Wendy is keeping with the 'friendly monster' cartoon-like style to particularly entertain children, but knows they are equally enjoyed by people of all ages!



Image: Wendy Dixon-Whiley, detail of *Purple Alien*

“Children especially enjoy scrutinising the various characters, naming them and making up stories around them. The delight they seem to get in seeing my work made this space (the Women’s and Children’s Hospital) feel like a natural fit as it seems a natural extension for my work to bring delight to children who might need some brightness and positivity in their lives”.

“These works are just a tiny cross section of the bizarre creatures that are born in my imagination; fun, quirky and unexpected – they exist to bring a smile or a puzzled expression to the face of the viewer and no more”.

Currently Wendy can be found at her Hahndorf Academy studio space creating strange looking creatures to bring a smile to the face of even the most serious of viewers.

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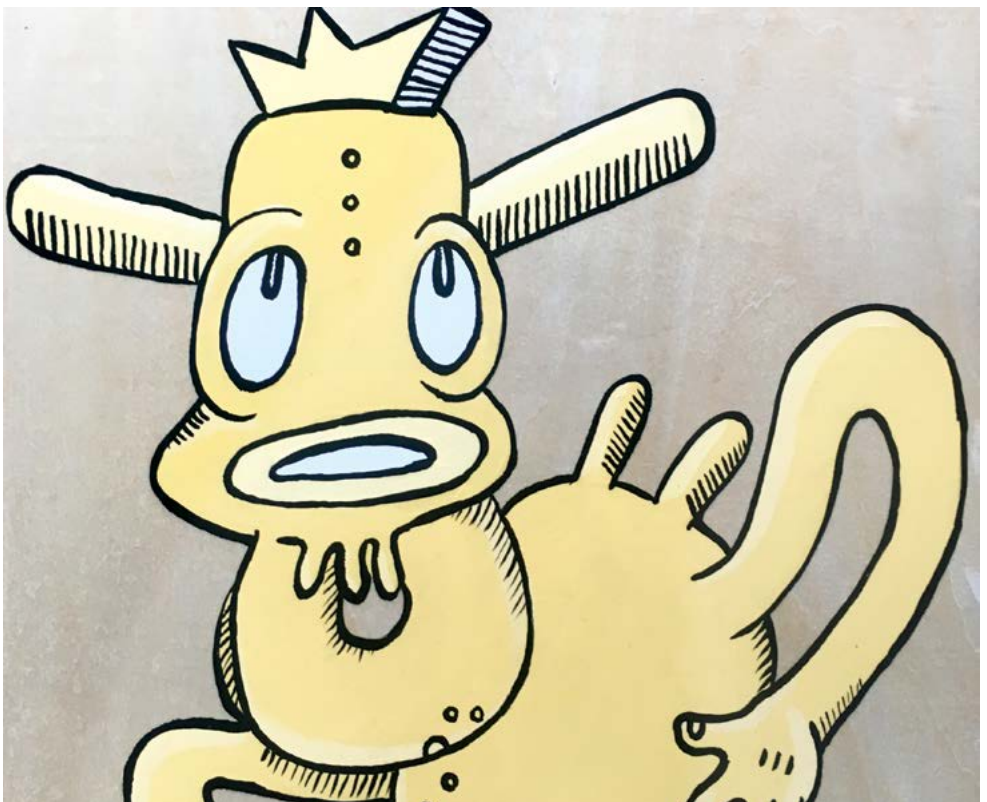


Image: Wendy Dixon-Whiley, detail of *Mohawk*

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 Kaurna People, we pay our respects to the Kaurna Elders past and present and to the Elders of the lands this brochure reaches.

Cover image: Wendy Dixon-Whiley, *Trumpet*



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