



A Farrago Project

by Anna Cherkasova and André Lawrence

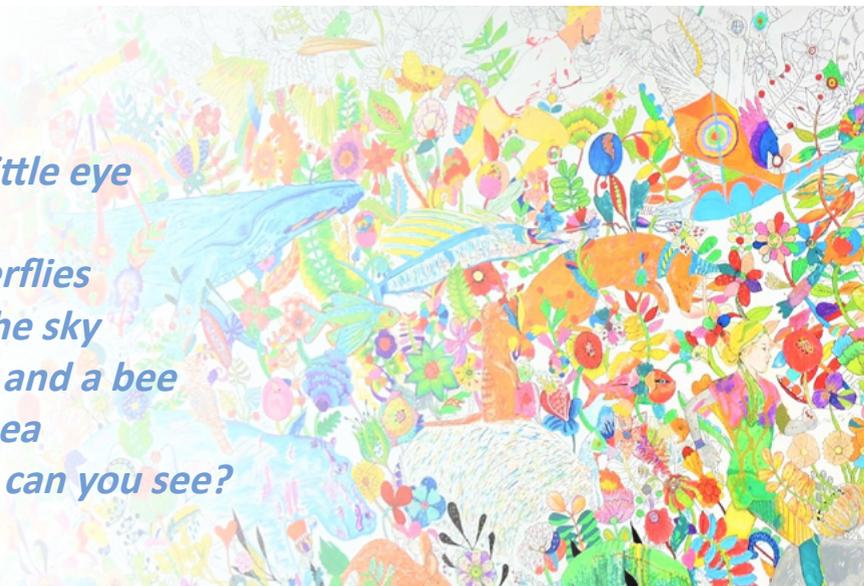


After a successful exhibition at Nexus Arts that delighted audiences and participants during Adelaide Fringe 2018, Farrago artist-curator duo Anna Cherkasova and André Lawrence return, sharing their part-interactive drawing project to audiences at the Women and Children's Hospital for Adelaide Fringe 2019. Like a giant colouring-in trail, this playful exhibition; *I Spy, all shapes and sizes* displays illustrative line drawings coloured in by Adelaide audiences. Musing on notions of cultural and personal diversity, difference, harmony, participation and inclusivity, *I Spy, all shapes and sizes* celebrates the uniqueness that each and all of us bring to the world and the power to create beautiful things that happen when we come together.

The pair known as *Farrago*; meaning *a confused variety of miscellaneous things*, formed their partnership in 2017. Russian born, Anna came to Australia in 2008, studying Visual Arts and met André when he was studying Curatorship at the University of South Australia and managing an international/migrant student support club called ARTCIRCLE.

In the 2018 exhibition Anna was commissioned to draw site-specific illustrations on the walls of the gallery and invited audiences to interact with the drawings by colouring them in. Anna's rich illustration practice creates intricate animals, plants and other characters. A veritable Noah's Arc of creatures all marching in the same direction and brought to life by the hands of everyone that came to interact with it in the *Farrago* exhibition.

I spy
With my little eye
Two birds
Four butterflies
A star in the sky
A ladybug and a bee
A desert pea
What else can you see?



Most of the *Farrago* mural was drawn directly onto the gallery walls at Nexus Arts and was painted over at the end of the exhibition. Fortunately, in designing the exhibition, a last-minute decision to produce some of the mural on a removable wall in the gallery space has allowed for Anna's drawings to be displayed again in the Blue Heart Gallery at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

For the artists, the artwork panels and their content seem most pertinent within a Hospital environment, one which they imagine can be both a challenging and joyous place to live, work and heal. *"Filled with such a bustling array of activity, of people and diversity, catering for the healing and well-being of women and children, we hope that this artwork can bring joy and wonder to the people that might perchance enjoy, assist them in their healing and their positive experience while at the Hospital."*

Keep your eyes peeled for more Farrago magic emerging around the hospital. And pick up your own Farrago artwork in the gallery to colour-in!

This exhibition is part of the WCHN Cultural Diversity Month, which aims to promote and celebrate diversity in our community, as well as raise awareness amongst our staff about culturally appropriate practices.

To see more of Anna's work: www.acheartist.com instagram @acheartist

Image: *I Spy* mural at Nexus Arts



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: detail of *I Spy...all shapes and sizes*



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