



Fluffy Tails and Wiggly Bums

By Elise Leslie-Allen



Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation

Arts in Health



Image: detail of *Sprung!*



Image: detail of *I'm not eating that now!*

Elise was born in Adelaide and has worked as a clinical psychologist for over 35 years. She has always been dedicated to animal welfare and has incorporated the presence of her pet dogs into her private psychology practice as research has shown that animals can assist in treatment and recovery – as well as making the working day more enjoyable for everybody!

Elise describes *'Fluffy Tails and Wiggly Bums'* as a celebration of the beauty, joy and fun that domestic animals bring to our lives. *"I am inspired by their unique personalities and behaviours which I try to capture in their individual portraits. My works are designed to inspire empathy and compassion for all animals in both children and adults"*.

"He liveth best who loveth best all creatures great and small." - Samuel Taylor

Although Elise is descended from a long line of artists in her family, surprisingly she did not start painting until 2007. Oil paints on linen or canvas is her preferred medium, mastering time-consuming fine brush work, whilst maintaining humour and a playfulness in her pet portraits.

Elise has won various awards at the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of SA, the Adelaide Cathedral Art Show, LightSpaceTime International Art Competition, and is an invited Artist at the Victor Harbor Art Show as well as the Blackwood Rotary Art Show.

In 2011 she was awarded the Special Art Prize at the Adelaide Royal Show and won a solo exhibition of her animal paintings at Art Images Gallery in Norwood.

Elise would like to acknowledge her models: Bertie (Red British Bulldog), Blossom (White British Bulldog), Hulk (Chihuahua), Dexter (Devon Rex), Lottie (Blue Smoke Persian), Edwina (West Highland White Terrier), Heathcliff (British Blue Shorthair), Detective Chief Inspector, Barnaby (Tabby), Honey (Bunny), Bella Mae Wright (Maltese/Poodle), Percy (White Persian) and Portia (Silver Tabby).

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 *Turn my Tickle Time*



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