



Fabric Designs: Landscape treasures enter the home!

By Sue Michael



Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation

Arts in Health

Sue initially trained as a Registered Nurse, then later completed a Degree in Visual Art and Applied Design, Diploma in Photo-Imaging, Bachelor Visual Art Honours (1st Class), and, in 2018, a transdisciplinary PhD within Visual Art. During 2020, Sue also attended a UK-based, online course concerning fabric design, to develop further skills to apply to and expand her favoured theme of geography-based place studies.

Her interests in reciprocal relationships with the natural world, and the subsequent potential for ecotherapy, inspires her work; regional South Australia provides bountiful locations for her to explore these holistic concepts.

The paintings in this exhibition were originally designed as circular painted views for fabric designs that have potential to grace silk scarves, cushions or patchwork quilts in domestic interiors.

"The paintings can then be messengers from the natural world. Landscape can 'enter' the home."

"Many of the images were inspired from old family slides or found vintage photos, from a time when we had a less architecturally developed footprint upon the land. Beach shacks would still shake in the southerly blusters, and animals could graze by the cabins' back door. Handfuls of shells were too numerous to collect, and garden flowers could be abundantly picked for petal arrangements for a china saucer on the kitchen table."

"Rather than being sentimental, these images hope to communicate certain pleasing atmospheres forwarded by nature, that may potentially promote balanced, calming or simplified thoughts."

"Some of these fabrics are available online from Digital Fabrics in Sydney...a city that has been welcoming of these simple local scenes. Perhaps we can mistakenly overlook the unique, grounded, simplicity of our local places, here in South Australia".

Sue has a rich professional practice and exhibits nationally. She is currently teaching place studies, online, to regional South Australian artists, and producing her own art resources suitable for those feeling confined and, indeed, distanced from the natural world.



Image top left: detail of *Beach Shack Green Fields*
Image bottom left: detail of *Yasmin's Petal Arrangement*
Image right: portrait of Sue Michael

To see more of Sue's artwork visit:

Instagram [@soodiorama](https://www.instagram.com/soodiorama)

Website: www.suemichael.art

Designs on Fabric: www.digitalfabrics.com.au/sue-michael-the-designer-project/

The Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) raises funds to support the health of women and children under the care 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 Arts in Health program creates an interactive and vibrant hospital environment that improves the health and wellbeing of the hospital patients, their families and staff. Through art, play and music, we encourage curiosity and creativity and reduce the stress of being in hospital.

The Arts in Health Exhibition Program provides a space away from the stresses of treatment to distract, entertain and inspire by improving the hospital 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.

Cover Image: *Fabric Designs: Landscape treasures enter the home!*



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