



A Portrayal of South Australia by Deb Rooney



Women's &
Children's Hospital
Foundation
Arts in Health

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Deb Rooney is a self-taught artist from the western suburbs in Adelaide who is known for her contemporary art style which showcases her signature colour and line technique in an illustrative form.

Deb has been fortunate to have travelled far and wide alongside her husband in his work with the Australian Defence Force. As a family, with three children in tow they have been posted to numerous states around Australia and twice to the United States.

It was during a two-year posting in the state of Kansas in 2017-18 where Deb became an 'accidental artist'.

Deb started painting the local scenery, which triggered much interest from her new friends. She was later commissioned to paint scenes around Kansas, which then expanded to paintings of Colorado, beach scenes from Florida, Mississippi, and Hawaii. This unexpected, exciting art journey gave Deb the confidence to continue her unique art practice on return to Australia.

"I feel my art is by virtue, the colours I see and the lines that define them". Deb's art is bold and bright which depicts joyful journeys through the many postings she's encountered thus far.

Deb draws inspiration from female artists in Maud Lewis, Georgia O'Keeffe and Heather Brown who each create their own eclectic style. Deb says she seeks collectors who dare to venture into the bright pop-naïve-contemporary art styles with love and loads of happiness.

Deb created her artworks using mainly acrylic paints and black markers, using small to medium size canvas or acrylic paper. She has always envisaged her art to be different, obscure, animated yet recognisable and hopes to bring that visual flair to this exhibition with creative, meaningful pieces.

For this exhibition at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Deb has selected South Australian pieces that connect to her heart, hoping to bring a dose of gladness, maybe a little nostalgia or simply some loving memories through her creative pieces.



Image top: *House*

Image bottom left: detail of *Port Elliot*

Image bottom right: portrait of Deb Rooney

Since returning to Australia, Deb has exhibited in several local galleries in Adelaide, and sells her work on the Blue Thumb website, where she recently won the 'Adelaide's People Choice Award'.

The Arts in Health team are excited to present this special portrayal of South Australia as part of the South Australian Living Artists Festival.

Learn more about Deb's practice: Instagram [@debart05](https://www.instagram.com/debart05) and www.bluethumb.com.au/deb-rooney

The Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation (WCH Foundation) improves the health and wellbeing outcomes for children and families under the care of the Women's and Children's Hospital and the broader Health Network.

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

To see our other exciting exhibitions within the Women's and Children's Hospital visit: wchfoundation.org.au/arts-in-health/gallery-exhibition-program/

Cover Image: detail of *Last Train to Oodnadatta*



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