



# I ME MY MINE

An exhibition by Oliver Mills

Women's & Children's  
Hospital Foundation



Meet Oliver Mills; a South Australian artist and poet living with epilepsy, vision impairment and cerebral palsy, a physical condition that affects muscle movement and verbal communication. Using specially designed equipment, and in collaboration with his family, carers, poetry mentors and art mentor, Henry Jock Walker, Oliver creates artworks that offer a visual expression of how he experiences the world.

*Oliver's art practice consistently explores mark-making, primarily in two mediums: acrylic paint and charcoal. This exhibition features four charcoal works and four acrylic paintings.*

Charcoal is Oliver's preferred medium, as the scritch and scratch sounds, along with the vibration feedback, create a strong sensory connection and excitement with the process. Whereas painting with acrylics allows for greater exploration of colour. Oliver uses specially designed tools as well as direct mark-making with hands and fingers in his process.

*He enjoys feeling the canvas surface and experimenting with the varying thicknesses and textures of the paint. Each acrylic work is made up of twelve small canvases, making it practical and accessible for Oliver to create larger works from his wheelchair.*

Oliver's artworks have been commissioned for the International Day of People with Disabilities lapel pin, the cover of Westerly Magazine, and by private collectors. His poetry has appeared in the Australian Poetry Journal, The Crow, InDaily, and Growing Up Disabled in Australia. He has received four grants from Arts SA's Richard Llewellyn Deaf and Disability Arts Trust and is currently working on his sixth collection of poems.

You can find out more about Oliver and his business Oliver's Choice by visiting his website [www.oliverschoice.net](http://www.oliverschoice.net) or by following him on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#) @Olivers\_Choice.



Image top: detail of *Confident*, Acrylic on Canvas

Image bottom left: Oliver's drawing process

Image bottom right: Portrait of Oliver at work

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.

Cover image: Charcoal with Oliver's hand



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