



# BEANBAG

An exhibition by Max Ballard

Women's & Children's  
Hospital Foundation



Max Ballard is a painter, muralist, illustrator and designer living and working on Kaurana Land in Adelaide, South Australia.

Ranging from oil and acrylic paintings on canvas to large scale murals, Max's work explores the way in which we perceive everyday spaces, and how these perceptions are impacted by familiarity, memory and nostalgia.

Often switching between realism and completely abstract, his work is linked by a strong focus on composition and the tension between rigid structure and free flowing forms. Max has exhibited in Adelaide and Melbourne and has been a finalist in the Adelaide Park Lands Art Prize and the Gallery M Contemporary Art Prize.

This exhibition offers a brief snapshot of Max's development as an emerging artist over the past four years.

Two of his early acrylic paintings hang alongside three paintings from his first year of painting after switching to oil paint. Max has three new experimental acrylic works. In these new works Max has both used the techniques learnt through working with oils and taken advantage of the benefits of acrylic, mainly the fast-drying time that allows him to layer colours quickly without them blending. While in the past he saw this as a disadvantage, in these new works Max has embraced the choppy aesthetic created by the distinct areas of colour.

Learn more about Max's practice: [www.maxballard.art](http://www.maxballard.art), Instagram [@max.n.b](https://www.instagram.com/max.n.b) and [facebook.com/max.ballard.artist](https://www.facebook.com/max.ballard.artist)



Image top: *New Rug*, Acrylic on Canvas, 2025

Image bottom left: *Studio Tins*, Materials, 2025

Image bottom right: photo of Max Ballard

The Women's & Children's Hospital Foundation partners with the community to ensure that every child and family thrives. Dedicated to families, we go the extra mile, providing essential care and support when it is needed 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 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 *The Beanbag*, Acrylic on Canvas, 2025



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**For more information contact:**

Lauren Simeoni, Arts Manager, Arts in Health  
[artsinhealth@wchfoundation.org.au](mailto:artsinhealth@wchfoundation.org.au) | T 08 8464 7900  
55 King William Road | North Adelaide | SA 5006  
[www.wchfoundation.org.au](http://www.wchfoundation.org.au)



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