



MISUNDERSTOOD

An exhibition by Leah Newman

Women's & Children's
Hospital Foundation



Leah Newman is an Adelaide artist, living and working on Kaurna Land. Leah's work explores her family's botanical heritage. Now, isolated from the beauty in which she grew, Leah marvels at the wonder that was once there, juxtaposed against what our world faces now; our contemporary human condition and our dislocation from nature.

This theme informs Leah's work, through subtle metaphors and narratives, utilising botanical and figurative elements

Primarily Leah works with oil paint on a variety of new and reclaimed supports. Leah is committed to working with pure, non-toxic materials to eliminate harm at all levels.

These so called 'weeds' are simply misunderstood plants. They are experts at thriving in degraded earth and harsh environments, they stem erosion, rebuild soil fertility and structure, moderate climate, create habitat and can offer nutrient-rich food and remedies

Without labeling these plants we can begin to see their inherent beauty and consider their potential benefits.

Leah graduated from Adelaide Central School of Art in 2021. Leah has been a finalist in international, national and local art prizes, including the Blake Prize, Percival Portrait Prize, The Waterhouse Natural Science Art Prize and the Tatiara Art Prize.

Learn more about Leah's practice on [Instagram @leahnewmanart](#)



Image left: detail of *Bullets*

Image top right: detail of *Make a Chain*, Oil on Marine Plywood

Image bottom right: Portrait of Leah 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: detail of *Make A Wish*, Oil on Marine Plywood



For more information contact:

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