



EYES ON AUSTRALIA

An exhibition by Ann van der Zwaag

Women's & Children's
Hospital Foundation



Ann van der Zwaag's interest in visual art is lifelong, but as for many women who like to create art, her early opportunities were limited by work, family commitments, and finance. Painting was squeezed in around the edges with night classes and art books.

Eventually life slowed down enough for some more substantial painting, book illustrating and frame-making. Ann was able to dedicate time studying art at Adelaide Central School of Art and Splashout Art Studios.

Ann's approach to painting is to notice and enjoy the energy that happens when landscape colours work together. It's not so much about reproducing the natural colours but about how one colour reacts to the colour next door.

Ann embraces multi-layering of acrylic paints, the frequent revision of the painting and the employment of many imagined colours. Also important, but secondary to the colour, are texture, perspective, light and composition.

Included in this exhibition is a group of five large landscape paintings that follow through the eyes of magpies. Ann has created a historic narrative where the magpies witness the colonisation of the Australian land, the invasion, early conflicts, the reshaped landscape, broken hopes and the living on...

Ann says "As just one non-indigenous woman, who with many others letter-boxed, door-knocked and wobbled boards for the YES campaign in The Voice referendum, I was embarrassed and hurt by the result. These paintings have evolved from that. I cannot begin to imagine the pain felt by First Nations people and others who had worked so hard and for so many years for such a reasonable objective. I have painted this series as a warble out to the other Yes voters - all 6,286,893 of them."

Ann has been represented at Gallery M Cultural Centre, Sir Ivor Hele Gallery RAH, Splashout Art Gallery, St Peters Council Gallery, Victor Harbor Art Show and numerous regional and urban art exhibitions.

See more of Ann's works on instagram [@zwaagart](#)



Image top: *Grieving*

Image middle: *After the Drought*

Image bottom: *Beach Glenelg*

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 *Living*



For more information contact:

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