

Since my earliest memories, I have been immersed in the world of art, continuously striving to expand my skills and explore new styles. In 2007, I had the opportunity to illustrate my first children's book, 'Joe, the starfish who wanted to be a star,' which garnered recognition with a nomination for the prestigious Children's Book Council Award, all thanks to its vibrant and captivating illustrations. This achievement led me to visit several schools, sharing insights into the artistic process and my career as an artist.

Fuelled by this rewarding experience, I embarked on the journey of writing and illustrating my own children's book, 'Monsters Don't Wear Ties,' which became a resounding success, captivating young readers and selling out in no time upon its release in 2018.

In 2014, I marked another significant milestone in my artistic journey with my debut solo exhibition titled 'Creatures.' The collection featured over 30 original paintings showcasing a diverse array of local and international animal species. This exhibition was a heartfelt tribute to nature, fueled by my deep passion for wildlife and the vibrant beauty of our planet's creatures.

My dedication to art extends beyond exhibitions, as I actively participate in various local group exhibitions and engage in live art demonstrations at festivals and

markets. Additionally, I gladly take on commissioned pieces, ranging from large landscapes to detailed illustrated pet portraits.

Nature and wildlife serve as my constant inspiration, and this passion resonates through my artworks. As I create, I find immense joy in observing my subjects come to life, stroke by stroke, whether it be feathers delicately rendered or scales meticulously painted. Furthermore, I am committed to using my art to make a positive impact on the world, contributing many of my paintings to exhibitions aimed at raising funds for animal welfare causes, including initiatives for Free the Bears, Native Animal Rescue, and the Canberra National Zoo.

My versatility as a highly skilled creative is reflected in the diverse range of mediums I work with, from the intricate details of pencil drawings and watercolors to the expressive power of digital artworks and acrylic masterpieces on canvas, plywood, floors, and walls.

Overall, my artistic journey has been fueled by a profound love for nature and the desire to share its beauty with the world through my creations.

Visit [unleishedart.com](http://unleishedart.com) or check out my socials @unleishedart

## EXHIBITIONS/SHOWS

- 2014 Solo exhibition, 'Creatures'
- 2014 Free the Bears Fundraiser Ball
- 2014 Canberra National Zoo Art Exhibition
- 2015/16/17/18/19/20/22/23 City of Joondalup Community Art Award
- 2015 Native Animal Rescue Art Award
- 2015 Light up Leederville Festival, Secret Walls 'Fence Gallery' (live painting)
- 2016/17/18/19/20/21/22/23 Churchlands Community Art Exhibition
- 2021 City of Stirling Community Art Awards
- 2023 City of Wanneroo Art Awards

## PUBLISHED + ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

- 2016, Little Bears Tale. Written by Free the Bears.
- 2017, Joe the Starfish who wanted to be a star. Written by Ron Samuel
- 2018, Monsters don't wear ties. Written by Aleisha Zappia
- 2019, Don't follow me moon. Written by Natalie Caudle
- 2020, The Valuing Children Initiative's four pillar book series. Written by Natalie Caudle
- 2022, The Little Book of Big Emotions, Written by Corey Gaidzionis
- 2022, Little Aussie Bugs 4 book series for ECU. Written by Dr Ruth Wallace and Dr Amelia Ruscoe
- 2023 Wanda Out Yonder, Written by Aleisha Zappia

## ALEISHA ZAPPIA

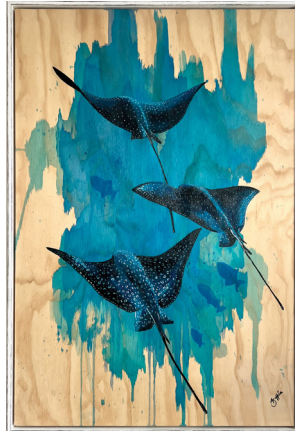
ARTIST / ILLUSTRATOR / GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
0403773656 / [ALEISHA@UNLEISHEDART.COM](mailto:ALEISHA@UNLEISHEDART.COM)

[UNLEISHEDART.COM](http://UNLEISHEDART.COM)

## AWARDS + ACHIEVEMENTS. (ART, DESIGN + ADVERTISING)

- Top Student in Art & Design, 2001
- Certificate IV in Fine Art, 2002
- Diploma in Graphic Design, 2003
- 2 finalist entries in the Woodside Poster Competition, 2004
- Best Folio, Contempt Graduate Exhibition, 2004
- Advanced Diploma in Graphic Design, 2004
- Nominated for the Childrens Book Council Awards, 2007
- Silver Singapore Outdoor Advertising Awards, 2008
- Bronze Innovative/Ambient Advertsing Award, PADC, 2008
- Finalist, One Show, New York, 2009.
- Finalist in Award 2009.
- 3 x Bronze Awards, PADC, 2010
- Best of Category, PADC, 2011
- Bronze Award, PADC, 2012
- City of Joondalup Community Art Award. People's Choice, 2015
- Native Animal Rescue Art Award, People's Choice, 2015
- Youth Choice Award, Churchlands Community Art Exhibition 2018







# UNLEISHED

ART BY ALEISHA ZAPPIA



## Iluka artist Aleisha Zappia publishes children's book *Monsters don't wear ties*

November 10th 2016, 10:00AM | Written by Lucy Smith | [Joining Times](#)



#Iluka artist and author Aleisha Zappia. Picture: Martin Kennealey

Iluka artist Aleisha Zappia has published a children's book, *Monsters don't wear ties*, that encourages play.

A decade after *First Understanding* a children's book, Zappia has realised a goal to write, illustrate and publish her own children's book.

"I really enjoyed the process of planning and illustrating children's books but I wasn't sure until now that I was ready to do it myself," she said.

"I was working on it for a long time and the things I see every day."

"It's so different to creating a logo or a brochure like my day to day work, I get to be a bit more creative in this."

"Kids have been really ready to absorb everything in front of them, so creating things for kids really has no boundaries."

"The idea behind my book is not to grow up too fast, play, explore, just be a kid."

"I guess I myself, I wasn't quite grown up - I want to go on adventures, explore, play with toys, read comics and listen to music and watch cartoons."

The graphic designer had her first solo exhibition, 'Unleashed', in 2014, featuring more than 30 paintings of animals.

"The majority of my work features animals as subjects, they are my passion," Zappia said.

"I love to make them fun - whether by making them look like a cat or a dog, or even a human, but in a way that is still recognisable as an animal."

"I've been creating art for a long time, so I can remember, working through high school and in my graduating year of 2010, working the art and design award."

"In 2012 I received my certificate in the art, followed by my diploma and subsequent diploma of graphic design, majoring in illustration and advertising."

"I have continued creating art in my spare time."

"I have also participated in many group exhibitions, including the 2015, '16 and '17 City of Joondalup Community Art Exhibition and the 2016 Joondalup Festival of Art & Design, where I received the people's choice award."

*Monsters don't wear ties* can be brought to [www.unleishedart.com](http://www.unleishedart.com).



Joondalup-Wanneroo Times/Weekender  
April 16, 2019 - 1

Unleished Art illustrator Aleisha Zappia recently visited Merriwa Primary School - read more about her book at <https://bit.ly/2v9hmAG>.  
Picture: Martin Kennealey [www.communitypix.com.au](http://www.communitypix.com.au) d491909

## Cooch Creative art director Aleisha Zappia's first solo art exhibition, 'Creatures' opens this week

By CB on September 10, 2014 8:49 AM [Community 10](#)



Cooch Creative art director Aleisha Zappia is holding her first solo art exhibition, 'Creatures', appropriately at Little Creatures in Fremantle.

The 30 acrylic works on canvas have been completed over the past three years and showcase Zappia's passion for

our natural world. The accomplished Zappia, who has previously illustrated a children's book written by fellow Cooch partner Ron Samuel, admitted to being a little nervous about the exhibition.

"As an art director, you work anonymously. You're name isn't on your work. But with my paintings, everyone knows it's me. I can't blame the client. Everything I've done was my decision. There's no excuse and nowhere to hide."

'Creatures' is open to the public from this Friday, September 12 to Wednesday, October 8.

Check out some of the paintings and Zappia's other work at [Unleished Art](#).

[Little Creatures Brewery](#) is at 40 Mews Road, Fremantle, and opens from 10.00am Monday-Friday and from 9.00am Saturday & Sunday.



10:01am Candice Barnes: As if we need another chance to head into Freo for a cheeky brew, but local artist Aleisha Zappia is hoping her work will turn a few heads (and open a few wallets...).

Her bright, nature inspired paintings will be on display at Little Creatures from tomorrow until 8 October.



Local artist Aleisha Zappia with some of the works to be displayed.

## Valuing Children Four Pillar - Book Series

Written by Natalie Caudle & Illustrated by Aleisha Zappia

We are pleased to introduce the Valuing Children Four Pillar - Book Series!

Through the use of delightful Australian native animal characters, Kelvin the Kangaroo, Kooky the Koalas, Ellie the Echidna and Summer the Swan, each book in the series explores one of the Valuing Children Initiative's four core pillars of Listening, Voice, Safety and Growth.

The books have been created by the Valuing Children Initiative to support children's literacy and to provide parents and teachers with opportunities to connect and discuss important issues with children. The questions on the 'reflection page' can be used by adults to initiate conversations with children in relation to each book's topic.

Prior to finalising the book series, we had a feedback session with students from St Benedict's School who provided their insightful input to assist us in completing the books.

We hope that children and adults alike will enjoy the bonding experience of reading these books together and envisage that each book will initiate many thoughtful conversations.

In February 2021, 4000 books will be distributed to Western Australian primary schools by one of our valued sponsors Westbooks.

The books are available for sale at selected bookshops or can be purchased directly from the Valuing Children Initiative for \$12 each\* or \$38 per set\* (four books). \*Plus postage if buyer unable to collect from Perth CBD.

Please email [nmccleod@valuingchildren.com.au](mailto:nmccleod@valuingchildren.com.au) to place an order.

All profits will go towards The Valuing Children Initiative's work to create a society that values all children.

Thank you to our Four Pillar - Book Series Sponsors:

Centrecare, Tony Fini Foundation, Westbooks and Unleished.

## EXHIBITION



Aleisha Zappia with one of her works at Little Creatures.

Picture: Martin Kennealey

[www.communitypix.com.au](http://www.communitypix.com.au) d425623

# NATURAL TALENT

## CREATURES SHOW TO HELP BEARS

WITH a title like *Creatures*, it is little wonder that East Fremantle artist Aleisha Zappia was ecstatic to be able to hold her first solo exhibition at Little Creatures.

Drawing her inspiration from the natural world, Zappia has a love of the animal kingdom that is evident in her paintings.

She has even offered to donate the proceeds from one of her pieces to charity Free the Bears.

Zappia said she wanted to create art that everyone could enjoy.

"You don't have to know art to enjoy my paintings, there's no deep meaning to figure out, they

are what they are and I like to inject a bit of fun and style into my subjects and characterise them a bit," she said.

"Feedback so far has been amazing and people have been really supportive."

"It's really exciting to be able to show your family and friends all in one location something you've been working on so hard at for the past few years and to share my pieces with the wider community is something I really look forward to."

*Creatures* will be held at Little Creatures from September 11 to October 8.

## TO VIEW MORE...



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## ARTICLES