



# Miguel Castro

Miguel Castro is a film and television actor, singer and visual artist.

## About the Artist

Miguel Castro has always been working with paper. His parents were bookbinders so his exposure to the material extended his interest in different paper art forms. His inspirations were derived from different Asian papercutting ideas and images, as well as Hans Christian Anderson's use of paper cutting as an end result, on-the-spot image creation highlighting every story he tells. He started with paper cutting in 2008 and has continued the art in between his works as a performer. He has exhibited his works in Germany, New Caledonia, Australia, and the Philippines.



The City of Rockingham values your feedback. Please scan the QR code to complete a short survey. Thank you.



Rockingham Arts Centre  
11 Kent Street,  
Rockingham

**Gallery opening times:**  
Wednesday – Sunday  
10am – 4pm

**Contact:**  
9527 0734  
customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au  
rockingham.wa.gov.au/exhibitions



rockingham.wa.gov.au



## Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Rockingham acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Binjareb and Whadjuk, Nyoongar peoples and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past and present.

*Studies 2022* (front cover left)  
Photo by Miles Noel  
*Constant Peace 2020* (front cover right)  
Photo by Miguel Castro

## BEYOND SURFACE – visual conversations in paper and clay

**Valerie Schönjahn and Miguel Castro**  
8 March – 2 April 2023



# Valerie Schönjahn

Enchanted by small curiosities and discovering their stories.

## About the Artist

Born in Zürich and living in Walyalup - Fremantle, Valerie Schönjahn is an emerging artist, with a background in the architectural profession and a passion for the garden. With an inquisitive nature, her contemporary arts practice is rooted in interrogating and experimenting with the things closest to her, be those of a tactile nature or from her emotional landscape. Arising out of her personal dialogue, she creates visual conversations through hand formed vessels and found and collected materials.

Her work is explorative and, while porcelain often plays a dominant role, she likes to include other mediums and work at variable scales.

Valerie's work has been awarded, and she has exhibited in Melbourne, Canberra and Perth. Her work is held in both public and private collections.



# SURFACE

by Valerie Schönjahn

How it breaks the light, falls in to shadow, partially. Reflecting its surroundings, faintly, offering fragments of its context. The surface captivates us, it is satisfying to behold.

And it's the shadows that bring its textures to light, the perceived depth, changing as it shifts. Surface shares much knowledge, even before we have touched it. Reading surface, finding clues to its identity, heritage, age and feel. Seeking to get to know the object beneath, wanting to establish an emotional connection.

There is always rhythm. Rhythm in the manner of working, in the movement of hands, which translates in to the individual pieces. Rhythm in the surface, up - down, up – down. Rhythm and repetition creating an idea of order.

This study of surface textures and vessels becomes a family of 3 dimensional sketches drenched in light. The beginning of a story.



**Studies 2022**

Photo by Miles Noel

# BEYOND SURFACE

**visual conversations  
in paper and clay**

In pursuit of harmony, these works connect with the self. Both artists are led by the process; the repetitive actions of the hands create complexity and abundance in the work. As a meditation of the self and nature, the work is spiritual in process and in outcome. Composed of many individual pieces that are distinct in themselves, this work is cohesive as a whole, and holds space for individual interpretations.

At the base of this work is an internal dialogue about peace and connection, which reflects the experience of both artists, navigating the spaces of seeking to belong in contexts that are far outside of what they have both been born into.



# DESIDERATA

by Miguel Castro

“Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.”, “With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.”

Portions of Max Ehrmann's poem DESIDERATA.

Powerful words that resonate to souls in search of reasons and purposes for their own lives. This played over and over in my thoughts that have translated into how I tackle everyday life, my thoughts about the world and people, my relationships, and where I would want to be. Things that I now understand come with age. For I laughed at the phrase chasing happiness when I was young, only to find out it is free and easy to embrace as long as consciousness allows itself to be conquered. Just like Max Ehrmann, his poem is heartfelt, because his words came from pure emotion and a genuine understanding of his thoughts. He does not need to force anybody to be persuaded by the poem. It sits there to be consumed. It is waiting to serve those who need a change in their lives. This is my intention with my medium. A road that is less travelled by many, but a tool to share my thoughts. Visions of peace, and harmony. A calm approach to questions and commentaries about a chaotic environment, images to feed consciousness hungry for a slice of reason and peace.