



Rockingham Arts Centre  
11 Kent Street,  
Rockingham

**Gallery opening times:**

Wednesday – Sunday  
10am – 4pm

**Contact:**

(08) 9527 0734  
artscentre@rockingham.wa.gov.au  
rockingham.wa.gov.au/exhibitions

Tom de Munk-Kerkmeer, *FRONT* (detail), 2024,  
collage and acrylic on cardboard, 92 x 73 cm.  
Image courtesy of the artist.



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**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.

Tom de Munk-Kerkmeer, *Chaos and the Tyranny of Symmetry*, 2020,  
bamboo, bicycle tube rubber, acrylic paint, 350 x 500 x 250 cm.  
Image courtesy of the artist.



# Bricolage

**Tom de Munk-Kerkmeer**  
Wednesday 21 May to Sunday 8 June 2025





Tom de  
Munk-Kerkmeer

Tom de Munk-Kerkmeer.  
Image courtesy of the artist.

## Artist and Exhibition information

Bricolage is the French term used for a DIY approach and refers to the construction or creation of works from a diverse range of materials that happen to be available. The term is also used in many other fields like anthropology, philosophy, and in the creation of computer software.

Tom was born in Australia but moved to the Netherlands at an early age after his father had died in a car crash. His grandfather was a bricklayer, sculptor, writer and philosopher, his mother, a painter, sculptor, housewife, and a DIY builder/architect. Art was very much part of everyday life.

He went to the Gymnasium, a pre-university high school, but after graduating he decided to travel to South America. Returning to the Netherlands he suffered from culture shock and started to paint on bits of discarded cardboard to try to express himself. Tom also decided he wanted to learn how to work with his hands. As a chef he experienced the world of tastes, smells, fire and organic matter, further igniting his creativity.

Travelling, living and working throughout Europe and the Caribbean, Art became his loyal companion. Self-taught and with an older version of *Art Now* as his modernist, visual bible, his practice meandered through painting, writing, puppet making, and sculpture.

While living in a very old house in the historic city-centre of Antwerp in Belgium, Tom created *The Guardian*, his first puppet/sculpture from waste materials. It was designed to protect him from spirit visitations... and it worked!

A colourful melting pot, influenced by the local, the global, the historical, the contemporary, the personal and the universal, Tom continued finding, recycling, and rescuing precious matter from waste bins in an attempt to restore a cyclic relationship with the earth. He created DIY Art-rituals to deal with the complex and traumatic experiences of his childhood.

Back in Australia as an adult, the bicycle proved to be an effective tool not only for transport but also for Tom's public performances, showing the audience that there are more environmentally friendly ways to do things. In Perth he studied at Central TAFE (now North Metropolitan TAFE) and Edith Cowan University.

Tom lives by his creed of building his relationship with the Earth by minimising his footprint in everything he does. He relies on walking, cycling and public transport, with a design ethos that most of his artwork must be able to be transported by these modes.

He currently lives in the WA wheatbelt in West-Northam, having built his own sustainable dwelling/studio recycling a burnt-out house. He is creating permaculture-sculpture gardens and a drive-through 'Sculpture on the Verge' sculpture park, creating his own myth whilst caring for his piece of paradise on the edge of the man-made desert.

Tom de Munk-Kerkmeer, *FREEZER* (detail), 2025, acrylic on cardboard, 85 x 60 cm.  
Image courtesy of the artist.

