

Deborah Zibah



Image courtesy of the artist.

About the artist

Born in Zimbabwe, my passion for art emerged early, though formal training came later. I migrated to Australia with my young family in 1988, following a journey through the UK and Sri Lanka.

I launched 'Amazing Murals' in 1994 - a business that flourished across homes, restaurants, and hotels. Although successful, I craved deeper expression and enrolled in an art degree in 2003 at Perth's Edith Cowan University where I graduated with three distinctions.

At university I fell in love with abstraction and became inspired by Picasso, Stein, and John Firth-Smith. Texture and surface tension became central to my work where I resisted minimalism and was driven by a fierce desire to experiment across media and concepts. In 2008 I secured a major commission: 116 original artworks for a hotel in Mandurah. This sparked an innovative technique using bitumen, acrylic, and grasstree resin to reflect the region's waterways and Indigenous heritage.

Today my practice is emotionally intuitive, rooted in abstraction and nature-inspired design. I have held 26 solo exhibitions and regularly participate in Mandurah Plein Air and Portrait Groups, maintaining a representational thread alongside my abstract work.



Rockingham Arts Centre
11 Kent Street,
Rockingham

Gallery opening times:

Wednesday – Sunday
10am – 12.30pm
1pm – 4pm

Contact:

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



rockingham.wa.gov.au



The City of Rockingham values your feedback.

Please scan the QR code to complete a short survey. Thank you.

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.



Shifting Forms

- An Intuitive Enquiry

Deborah Zibah

Wednesday 14 January to
Sunday 1 February 2026

Deborah Zibah, *Dancing with Dolphins 2*, 2024
acrylic on wood panel, 90 cm x 90 cm.
Image courtesy of the artist.



Deborah Zibah, *Fairground*, 2024
mixed media on panel,
57 cm x 57 cm.
Image courtesy of the artist.

Exhibition information

Shifting Forms is a meditation on movement, memory, and metamorphosis. In this latest body of work, Deborah Zibah invites viewers into a liminal space where boundaries dissolve and new configurations emerge. Through her signature layering of mixed media – acrylic, graphite, collage, crayon, oil stick, and utilising many mark-making tools – Zibah orchestrates a visual symphony of flux and resilience.

Each piece in the exhibition pulses with a sense of becoming. Forms stretch, fragment, and reassemble, echoing the rhythms of nature and the inner landscape. The works do not depict transformation, they enact it. Surfaces are scraped, veiled and reworked, revealing traces of what was and gesturing toward what might be. In this way, *Shifting Forms* becomes both archive and prophecy – a record of change and a vision of possibility.

Zibah's practice is deeply rooted in place, yet never static. Having journeyed from Zimbabwe through the UK and Sri Lanka to Western Australia, her work carries the imprint of migration, adaptation, and spiritual inquiry. The exhibition reflects this layered geography, drawing on the textures of land, memory, and ritual.

There is a quiet urgency in these works – a call to witness the fragile beauty of transition and to honour the spaces in between.

At the heart of *Shifting Forms* is a belief in art's capacity to hold contradiction: stillness and motion; grief and joy; rupture and repair. Zibah's compositions resist easy resolution, instead offering a contemplative terrain where viewers are invited to linger, reflect, and reimagine. The exhibition is not a conclusion but a threshold – an invitation to engage with the shifting forms within and around us. At its core, *Shifting Forms* is an invitation to commune with the unknown. Zibah's work challenges viewers to move beyond the literal, to feel rather than interpret. Through courageous mark-making and a profound connection to emotion, she creates spaces of resonance – where transformation is not only depicted but experienced. Ever on a quest to transcend known boundaries, she seeks new ways to bring excellence and clarity to her practice. In every shifting form, a pulse of possibility – vibrant, inspired, and endlessly enthused.

Deborah Zibah, *Seedtime and Harvest* (detail), 2023
mixed media on panel, 100 cm x 100 cm.
Image courtesy of the artist.

