

DEBRA HIGGINS

ARTIST AND EDUCATOR

Personal Information

Born 1958

Address

50 Collins Street
THORNBURY 3071

Phone

0417 736 099

Email

debra.ralph@bigpond.com

Instagram

[debhigginsart](#)

Facebook

[Debra Ralph \(Debra Higgins\)](#)

Visual Artist, Educator, and
Spoken Word Artist

Artistic Skills

- Acrylic and Oil Painting
- Mixed Media and Collage
- Resin
- Printmaking
- Photography and Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator

Teaching Skills

- Art Teacher
- Primary, Secondary and Special Education
- Arts Key Teacher
- Creativity, Problem Solving, Critical Analysis and Communication
- Curriculum Development as School Principal and Arts Key Teacher (Q'ld)
- Creative Writing: Poetry/Fiction

As an Artist, Spoken Word Poet and Educator, I believe art makes connection with our collective human condition and the natural world possible. Within my creative practice there are recurrent themes linked to place and history, and the pressing need for stewardship of our beautiful planet.

I use a range of media, found ephemera and recycled materials to create artworks that are predominantly abstract and expressive. I love experimentation and the inevitable push and pull of artistic practice preferring processes that are simultaneously both planned and intuitive.

As an educator, I affirm art as the perfect vehicle for holistic teaching. Through the teaching of art, our future citizens learn not only about culture, history, science and art appreciation: they also learn valuable lessons about themselves, their thought processes, and humanity.

Exhibitions

2019 "Unshut": Group Exhibition (Mentor: Ilona Nelson)
School House Studios Collingwood.

2019 "It So Happened": Participant and Curator Group
Exhibition Queen Victoria Women's Centre, Melbourne.

2019 Cascade Art: "Christmas" Show. Maldon.

2019 "Camouflage": Group Exhibition. (Mentor: Troy Emery)
School House Studios Collingwood.

2019 "Scales of Time": Linear Notions Fool Exhibition.
Mentor: Hannah Matthews: Senior Curator MUMA)

2019 "Small Works": Group Exhibition. Brunswick Street Gallery.

2018 "Stepping Out": Group Exhibition. Victoria College of Art.

2017 "New Beginnings": Group Exhibition.
Victoria College of Art. Lon Gallery, Collingwood.

Education

Bachelor of Education (Primary and Special Education) 1986
CREATE NCAT 2019

Contemporary Painting: Victoria College of the Arts 2018

Painting Techniques: Victoria College of the Arts 2017

Experience

2014-2018 Art Teacher; Art Director (Production); Curator
Rossbourne Art Collection: Rossbourne Private Special School
(Hawthorne, Victoria): Secondary students with Special Needs
(Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Severe Learning and/or Language
Impairments, Students with Behavioural Impairments).

1987-2014 Varied roles including Principal/Deputy Principal
Primary, Team Leader Behaviour Support, and various
teaching/administrative roles within Special Education across
State and Private Educational Sectors. Responsibilities
included curriculum review, innovation, development and
implementation of The Arts (Visual Art and Drama) and SOSE.

