

Michelle Campbell's first solo exhibition *Urban*, on display at Mundaring Arts Centre from 5 June - 1 August, is a reaction through contemporary painting to the seemingly endless desire for urban development and subdivision.

This development is often to the detriment of communities and streetscapes, says Campbell. As Perth's suburbs continue to grow, off-the-plan houses replace older homes, obliterating all sense of place and history and exchanging native environments for expanses of carbon copy banality.

In the gallery at Mundaring Arts Centre, Campbell's paintings are presented amongst the sounds and symbols of suburban environments - artificial lawn and commonplace plastic outdoor chairs. The uniform size paintings are scaled to imitate subdivided blocks of land and with a seemingly cheerful colour palette.

Recently our homes have protected us from a global pandemic, functioning as a school, office, and refuge. Whilst Campbell's paintings appear bright, innocent, and jovial, they allude to the home as a sanctuary from both the real and imagined fears outside them.

Originally from New Zealand, Campbell has lived in Perth for over 20 years. She has exhibited at Nyzstor Studio and PSAS and been a finalist in the York Botanical Art Prize, Minnowarra Art Awards, Portia Geach Memorial Award, City of Joondalup Invitation Art Prize, and the Black Swan Prize for Portraiture. Campbell won the 2015 City of Belmont Art Awards, and her paintings are held in the City of Belmont and City of Armadale collections.

*Urban* is a response to our changing suburbs and investigates the psychological impact of this change on our community wellbeing. It is also a response to the personal connection we have to our homes and the suburbs we live in as an extension of our self. *Urban* is on show at Mundaring Arts Centre until 1 August.



Images: Michelle Campbell, (l-r) *Urban Still Life*, 2017, 84 x 91 cm *Urban Doppelgänger*, 2018, 67 x 102 cm, *Urban Yellow*, 2019, 84 x 91 cm, all oil on canvas.

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Mundaring Arts Centre | Tuesday – Friday 10am-5pm, Saturday & Sunday 11am-3pm  
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