

# ELISE LESLIE-ALLEN



I was born in Adelaide and have worked as a Clinical Psychologist for over 25 years. I have always been passionate about animals and have incorporated the presence of my West Highland White Terriers into my private clinical psychology practice as therapy dogs. Although I am descended from a long line of artists in my family, I did not start painting until 2007 and subsequently took lessons from Adelaide artist Margaret Slape-Phillips at the Pepper Street Art Gallery in Magill.

In 2011 I was awarded the Special Art Prize at the Royal Adelaide Show for a painting of Bertie my British Bulldog and won a solo exhibition of my animal paintings at Art Images Gallery in Norwood in 2012.

I am a realist painter who works with oils to create images of wildlife, domestic pets, and Australian native animals.

My husband and I currently live with two West Highland White Terriers and a British Bulldog as well as a number of rescued and pedigreed cats. I am inspired by their unique personalities and behaviours and try to capture on canvas the beauty, joy and fun that animals bring to our lives.

I also accept pet portrait commissions and try to honour the connection humans have with their pets - sometimes stronger than the bond they have with other humans in their lives!

I appreciate living in a country that has laws protecting animals from abuse and neglect and have great respect for Australians who sacrifice their own comfort to provide no-kill shelters for abused and homeless animals or who have set up agencies in Asian countries to promote the cause of animal welfare.



I am grateful for the love and happiness animals bring to my life and I hope that the representations of animals in my paintings inspire empathy and compassion in the viewer and help to promote understanding that animals are vulnerable, sentient creatures who need protection.

You can view more of Elise's artwork at:

[www.gallery247.com.au](http://www.gallery247.com.au)

