

# Manjung Gallery Group

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## Rebecca Cool

The daughter of well-respected Maria Cool, Rebecca's passion for art developed as a child. Her mother would send her children's drawings off to magazine competitions. "We won prizes!" laughs Rebecca.

Rebecca first painted her trademark woman faces as a 10 year old child inspired by the artistic climate of her family, and has painted it on everything ever since. For four decades, her distinctly recognizable trademark has remained the central motif of every Cool creation. The advantage of using the face is that Rebecca is 'never stuck for something to draw'. She starts with the face then strives to make the work different each time.

Rebecca is now an established artist (Claremont School of Fine Art 1973 and 1980, Fremantle College 1985-87. Has held many group and solo exhibitions throughout WA), but she's still learning. She says, 'I'm still excited about it, about colour combinations and it just seems endless to me'.

At 52, Rebecca feels more in love with her work than ever and resents any commitments that take her away from it. She likes to work every-day because she believes it's the way that an artist can improve her skills; 'Practice makes perfect'.

Rebecca Cool's delightful compositions feature vintage fabrics, paint and pastels to entertain the senses through colour and pattern, to produce poetic work that is both simple in pretext yet emotionally powerful.

She likes to paint a lot of different subjects in acrylic, enjoying their drying quality that facilitates spontaneity. Rebecca combines primitive and modernist styles, rendered in bold oil pastel and embellished with recycled fabrics of ethnic 1950's design. Her love of fabric lets her source it from a variety of places, "I love 50's fabrics and the strange colour combinations".

Artist Rebecca Cool gathers ideas in the evenings and paints during the day. Since being in the South West, she's also found herself drawn to nature and the river. It graces her lyrical mindscape in a myriad of guises – from the perennial earth mother to angels and mermaids, ducks and cats.

She is touched by the emotions her work imbues on other people. Yet despite the recurring motif, reaction to her work is often personal. People will see themselves or their family in the paintings.