



invisible art space
141 / 2-18 Buchanan St Balmain
<https://www.invisibleart.space>
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Elizabeth Rankin 0417 487 711

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ELIZABETH RANKIN THE IMAGE OF HER 05-27 September 2026

The Image of Her is a solo exhibition by [Elizabeth Rankin](https://www.invisibleart.space/ElizabethRankin) of paintings, textiles and video exploring Simone de Beauvoir's question of female embodiment via the bodies of older women and pregnant women and the changes that these two things bring

EVENT DETAILS:

What: ***The Image of Her*** (solo exhibition of paintings, textiles, video art)

Artist: **Elizabeth Rankin**

Where: **invisible art space** 141/2-18 Buchanan St Balmain

When: **05-27 September 2026**

Gallery hours: **Saturdays and Sundays 12-3pm**

Cost: **free**

Links:

Gallery: invisible art space <https://www.invisibleart.space> +
<https://www.instagram.com/invisibleart.space>

Exhibition info:

<https://www.invisibleart.space/elizabeth-rankin-the-image-of-her-05-27-september-2026>

Artist: Elizabeth Rankin <https://www.instagram.com/elizabethrankin50>

Contact:

Artist: Elizabeth Rankin 0417 487 711 or

Gallery: Kath O'Donnell kath@invisibleart.space 0423 841 726



Elizabeth Rankin
The Image of Her
05-27 September 2026
drinks with the artist 05 + 06 Sept. : 12-3pm
gallery open: sat + sun : 12-3pm
141/2-18 Buchanan St, Balmain

Elizabeth Rankin, Turn, 2026.
Oil on linen, 80 x 60 cm.
<https://www.instagram.com/elizabethrankin50>



artist statement + image follows...

ELIZABETH RANKIN THE IMAGE OF HER 05-27 September 2026

One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman -- *Simone de Beauvoir*

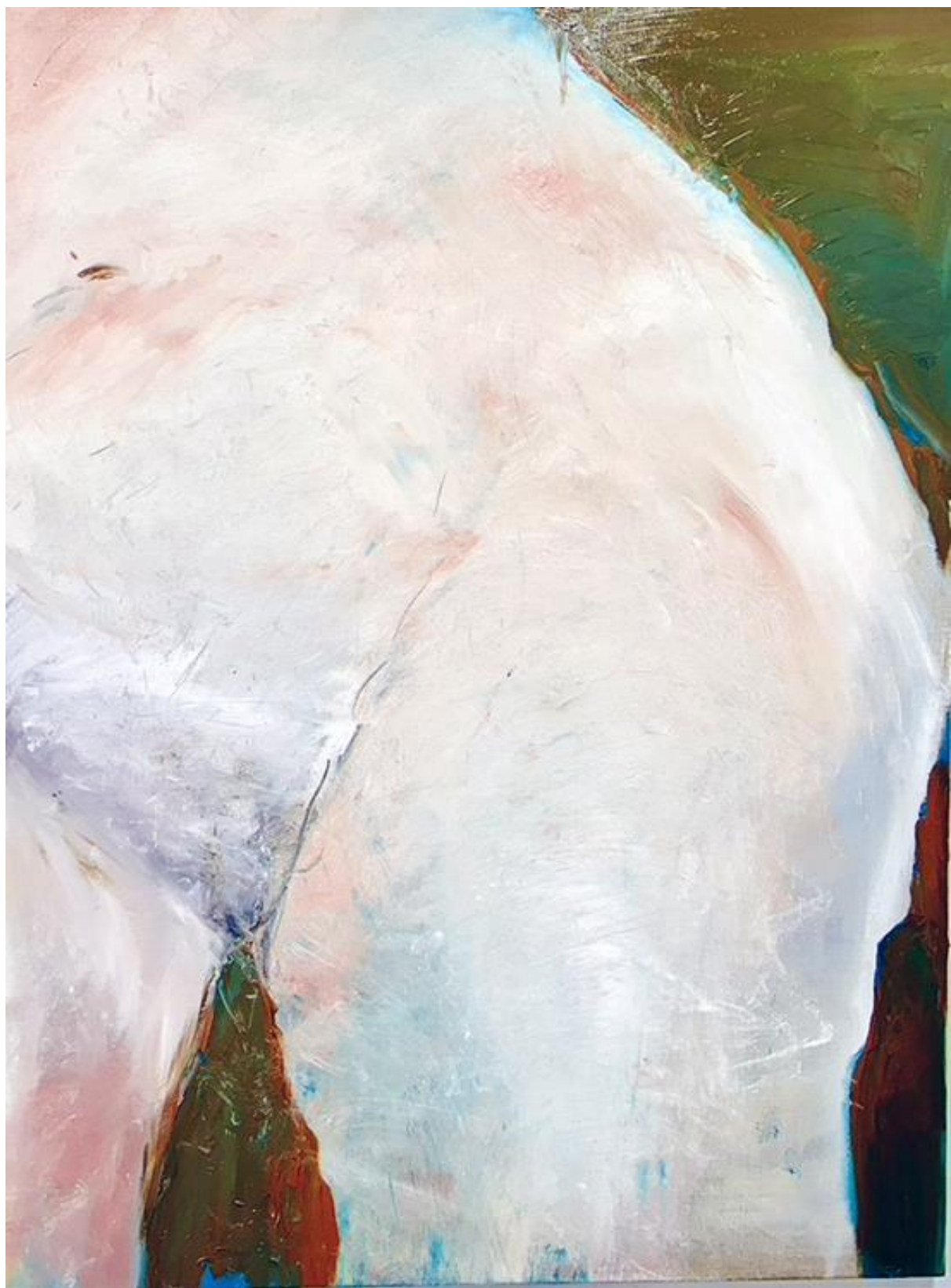
In *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir sketches a kind of existential history of a woman's life: a story of how a woman's attitude towards her body and bodily functions changes over the years, and of how society influences this attitude. Here, de Beauvoir raises the core question of female embodiment: Are the supposed disadvantages of the female body actual disadvantages which exist objectively in all societies, or are they merely judged to be disadvantages by our society? A woman's body is the site of this ambiguity, for she can use it as a vehicle for her freedom and also feel oppressed by it.

De Beauvoir argues that it is not the biological condition of women that constitutes a handicap: it is how a woman construes this condition which renders it positive or negative. None of the uniquely female experiences – the development of female sex organs, menstruation, pregnancy, menopause – have a meaning in themselves; but in a hostile or oppressive society.

In this exhibition, Elizabeth Rankin does not portray perfect bodies, or exaggerated imperfect bodies, but the bodies of older women and pregnant women with the changes that these two things bring. The hands of the women deny total access to their bodies and at the same time are self-caressing and self-defining. Included is a painted dress that her painted women might enjoy, with images painted on the cloth to extend the meaning of the forms. Dress is the new skin chosen to mask or display the self and here stands just as itself untethered to a body. Related to this is Rankin's short video *Thin Ice*, in which hand drawn watercolour images of women celebrate the body through dance. The fluttering shapes quiver and twirl to a pattern in adjusting patterns and groupings in silent agreement.

Exhibition runs 05-27 September. Gallery open Saturday + Sunday 12-3pm. Drinks with the artist Saturday 05 + Sunday 06 September

Contact: Elizabeth Rankin 0417 487 711 or Kath O'Donnell kath@invisibleart.space



Elizabeth Rankin. Vee. 2026. Oil/wax on linen. 80x60cm