

Zahidah Zeytoun Millie

Mangrove Artist

Zahidah Zeytoun Millie is my Environmental Hero, and she loves mangrove forests like me. Zahidah is from the Mediterranean coast of Syria. Her family were lucky because they are in a stable part of Syria that is not in war, otherwise they would have had to move somewhere else which may not have been easy for them.

Zahidah grew up in Latakia. She studied economics at Tishreen University in Latakia, Syria and she finished a Fine Arts degree in Beirut, Lebanon. While she was an art student she worked as a gallery assistant and when she moved to the UAE (United Arab Emirates) she became an artist and art teacher. Zahidah finished a Masters of Visual Arts at Monash University and she is currently a PhD candidate at Deakin University. These careers helped turn Zahidah into the person she is today.



Zahidah started her first job at the age of 22, which was helping her dad with his trade business. Her second job was while she was a student in Lebanon, she worked as a volunteer art teacher at a Palestinian refugee and handicapped children school. Zahidah is passionate about mangroves because she thinks they are pretty and very important eco system. Mangroves are considered very efficient carbon sinks and they protect our shores. Mangroves deserve to be taken care of. Her inspirations were her parents because they help take care of trees and plants.

I like what Zahidah does because I like the mangroves that she takes care of. She also draws and paints them. Zahidah works with the mangroves program in Barwon Heads and co-operates with nature and the environment by lending a helping hand. We need to help with this because we don't want climate change to destroy everything, it might even evaporate the seas and that would affect the marine life.

I admire Zahidah because she takes care of our planet. I also think we can all learn to appreciate the mangroves for what they are. If we took care of plants and were more like Zahidah we could form a big community that lives together on a big, safe Earth.

Zahidah's efforts should be considered when we think about chopping down the trees she is trying to protect. She believes 'Surely they (mangroves) cannot be considered ugly' and she hopes that we will grow more mangroves than we chop down and that will help life be more manageable on our planet.

www.zahidahart.com

www.mangrovesfromthewater.com

By Thomas