HOSPITAL ROOMS | Torbay Hospital

We are excited to announce that Hospital Rooms has partnered with Devon Partnership NHS Trust to create artworks for three inpatient mental health wards at Torbay Hospital.

This project will see close collaboration with both the inpatient wards and Devon Recovery Learning Community to ensure wide participation from service user representatives across the region. In addition, Healthwatch Torbay and Torbay Culture are advising on the local context, opportunities and challenges, while Artizan Gallery in Torquay are helping us to reach and discover creative practitioners from within the region who will deliver and benefit from the initiative, as part of the project's commitment to work with local talent from Torbay and South Devon. The project has also been generously supported by the Devon Partnership Trust Charity, fashion retailer Anthropologie and construction firm Kier.

Hospital Rooms is an arts and mental health charity that commissions extraordinary artworks for mental health inpatient units across the UK. The charity helps turn clinical, cold and sometimes frightening environments into welcoming, soothing and beautiful spaces. We commission acclaimed regional, national and international artists, who in turn carry out workshops with staff and service users to come up with radically new visuals for each space.

Devon Partnership NHS Trust and Hospital Rooms have worked together before, commissioning artwork for The Junipers, a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit, and Jasmine Lodge, a Mother and Baby Unit, both in Exeter. Turner Prize nominated artist Mark Titchner, who created artwork for the Mother and Baby Unit in 2019, talks through the process of creating the artwork in this film.

This latest Hospital Rooms project will see the creation of fifteen artworks, five per ward. Starting in November, each artist will host a workshop during which staff, service users and care providers will explore a theme or artistic medium, collectively generating ideas for the final artwork. Five of these workshops will take place in the wider community. Once all the artworks have been installed, and COVID-19 guidance permitting, a public exhibition of the artworks will be opened. This will help to promote the project and demonstrate how art and creativity can be made accessible to people even at the most difficult of times.



Bindi Vora for The Junipers, Devon Partnership NHS Trust

'The importance of a therapeutic environment in which to support people with mental health needs cannot be overstated. We know that art can play a huge part in helping to create this environment and I have no doubt that this project will transform these three wards, in the same way that it has done at our Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit and our Mother and Baby Unit.'

- Chris Burford, Director of Nursing and Professions at Devon Partnership NHS Trust

'The Hospital Rooms project is an innovative and exciting initiative that works across creativity and wellbeing. It shows how we can utilise the potential of us all to empower and transform. This is about changing our culture and how service users, carers, artists and staff can work together to make spaces welcoming and responsive to their needs. Torbay Culture and Healthwatch Torbay are pleased to support Hospital Rooms and their work which illustrates the real benefits of partnership across health, community and culture'

- Kevin Dixon, Chair of Healthwatch Torbay and Board Member of Torbay Culture

Partners

The Devon Recovery Learning Community is a Recovery College provided by Devon Partnership NHS Trust to support mental health, personal recovery and wellbeing.

The DRLC offers a wide range of innovative opportunities to learn about mental health to support personal recovery and wellbeing. We provide a unique curriculum of courses delivered online, in person or through a blended approach to learning designed to increase knowledge and equip people with the tools to live a meaningful, productive and fulfilling life.

Our students are people with experience of mental health difficulties, their family and friends, and the professionals who support them. Our courses are free and open access because our students want to learn, not because they have to. www.devonrlc.co.uk

Healthwatch Torbay is the independent consumer champion for health and social care in Torbay, South Devon – home to over 130,000 people in the three coastal towns of Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. Local Healthwatch organisations were established as fully independent bodies run by local people, for local people as part of a national healthwatch network set up under the Health & Social Care Act (2012). www.healthwatch.org.uk

Torbay Culture, based at TDA, was established to progress Enjoy, Talk, Do, Be, the cultural strategy for Torbay. The strategy's mission is to enable the cultural development of Torbay – which is designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark – and to make it a better place in which to live, work, learn and visit.

www.torbayculture.org

Artizan Gallery is an independent art gallery dedicated to championing the work of local artists in the South West. Working from its base in Torquay, Artizan also manages pop-up spaces across Torbay and the region.

www.artizangallery.co.uk



















The project will take place at the following three mental health wards at Torbay Hospital:

Salus Ward

This pioneering new mental health ward is currently being built.

It will help tackle the shortage of adult mental health beds in the area and ensure local people can receive care close to home.

Service: Adult Acute (male and female)

Age: 18-65

Number of beds: 16

Average length of stay: 35-40 days

Haytor Ward

This mental health ward provides care to adults who are acutely mentally unwell.

Around one in three of the population of Torbay lives in an area that is in the top 20% of the most deprived in England. People in more deprived communities are more likely to experience multiple long-term mental health conditions and generally have poorer health outcomes and shorter life expectancy.

Service: Adult Acute (male and female)

Age: 18-65

Number of beds: 16

Average length of stay: 35-40 days

Beech Unit

This mental health unit provides care to older adults and has recently been extended and refurbished to enhance its environment.

One in four of Torbay's population is over 65, and this is expected to rise to one in three by 2030. It is essential that the provision of mental health services for older people in the area is of an exceptional quality.

Service: Older Adult Acute (male and female)

Age: 65+

Number of beds: 16

Average length of stay: 35-40 days

THE ARTISTS Salus Ward



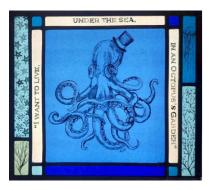
Ged Quinn

Ged Quinn (b. 1963, Liverpool) lives and works in Cornwall. He is known for his richly layered paintings, which transform art historical references into contemporary experience. His works combine symbolic and surreal elements with references to mythology and the traditions of landscape, still-life and genre painting. Drawing on the work of artists such as Claude Lorrain, Caspar David Friedrich and Jacob van Ruisdael, his dreamlike paintings resist straightforward interpretation.



Andy Harper

Andy Harper (b. 1971, Torquay) is an artist and lecturer based in St Just, Cornwall. He grew up in Torquay and his family is still based in the area. Andy makes complex paintings derived from an elaborate lexicon of marks. His work is often made directly onto three dimensional objects or the fabric of a building, such as a Marine Buoy, a large globe, or an entire wall in a shopping centre.



Amy McCarthy

Amy McCarthy is a South Devon-based glass artist working in decorative panels and architectural glass. Incorporating methods using photographic images, acid etching, casting and glass painting, she creates leaded and sculptural work. Amy is also an environmental sculptor undertaking a wide range of public and community projects around the UK. She has coordinated Teignmouth Recycled Art in the Landscape (TRAIL) since 2014. In 2021 she produced an Arts Council-funded 30 metre timeline of the history of Teignmouth on the Port Wall for the Teign Heritage Centre. In 2018 Amy was Artist in Residence for Newton Abbot Museum and produced large scale artworks for the museum with over 180 members of the public.



Anna Chrystal Stephens

Anna Chrystal Stephens (b. 1984, South Devon) uses sculpture, action and photography to explore sustainable living strategies, self-sufficiency and the transition between nomadic and settled modes of survival. Using natural and recycled material as well as defunct camping paraphernalia and survival gear, she creates sculptures and objects with real or imagined purposes, making links between ancient techniques and contemporary tools.

Their aesthetics are a celebration of attempts to connect with wilderness and a reaction to anxiety about climate breakdown. She investigates ancient practices like harvesting wild plants for food or medicine as a way to viscerally understand rural and urban habitats.



Cass Agazzi Brooks

Cass Agazzi Brooks (b. 1988, South Devon) is an artist based in the South West. Her vibrantly-coloured paintings combine real and imagined imagery to reflect upon our strange and beautiful world. She studied Fine Art at the University of Brighton and then at Plymouth College of Art, where she graduated with an MA in 2018. Her work has recently been exhibited at Freelands Foundation, London; 44AD Artspace, Bath and Studio Nine, Totnes. Having lived in London for a number of years, she has now returned to her hometown of Plymouth where she lives and works.

THE ARTISTS Haytor Ward



Samuel Bassett

Samuel Bassett (b. 1982, St Ives) occupies a studio in St Ives that has been passed down by family members and was formerly occupied by Francis Bacon.

Bassett's work is autobiographical, cataloguing the day-to-day of his life with honesty, humour and pathos. Providing an insight into his fast-paced mind, his mixed media works display enormous energy and experiment.

His paintings could be described as 'psychological cubism', where the inner and the outer self reveal themselves and coalesce.



Tanoa Sasraku

Tanoa Sasraku (b. 1995, South Devon) makes stitched and torn newsprint works that are inspired by the material structure of the Fante Asafo flags of coastal Ghana and geometric forms found in Tartan cloth, towers and pinnacles of rock. Her own banners map personal stories of a life lived in modern Britain, as newsprint, pigment and basic craft processes bind together to create cryptic, ceremonial objects.

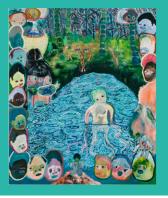
In her practice as a filmmaker, Sasraku engages in retellings of traditional folklore from a black and lesbian perspective, as well as producing more diaristic journeys through her past via the medium of analogue film.



Jacqui Hallum

Jacqui Hallum (b. 1977, London) is an artist based in Totnes. Her paintings draw on imagery ranging from medieval woodcuts and leaded glass windows to tarot cards and Art Nouveau children's book illustrations. She works primarily with textile and pigment, staining and dying loose cotton sheets with drawing ink, graffiti ink and squid ink.

Jacqui was the winner of the prestigious John Moores Painting Prize in 2018, and her work has recently been exhibited at Exeter Phoenix; the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool and Kingsgate Project Space, London.



Huhtamaki Wab

Huhtamaki Wab (b. 1984, Tokyo) works between painting, performance, video, installation and sculpture alongside his role as director of the Genius Treasure Collection.

Wab's practice exists in an animistic and non-anthropocentric world. Interconnected spirits and humans populate landscapes that create ecstatic realities. Complex entanglements between persons and landscapes create a rich ecology of non-hierarchical relations. Heavily informed by the animistic culture of his birthplace of Japan, depictions of yokai in ukiyo-e prints as well as contemporary representations of this heritage, for example in cultures such as manga, can be seen in his work. He now lives and works in rural Devon.



Simon Ripley

Simon Ripley (b. 1962, Dover) is a Director of Exeter's Double Elephant Print Workshop. He is an artist printmaker with a family background in printing. His prints are influenced by his time working with asylum seekers for the United Nations in London, Sudan and Hong Kong. He makes linocut monotypes using an 1850s Columbian Press from his garden studio in Crediton. His work is mostly large scale, abstract and colourful. With Double Elephant his focus is upon outreach and community-based work – taking printmaking into schools, healthcare settings and communities – with the aim of using art to improve health and wellbeing and to communicate with others.

THE ARTISTS Beech Unit



Tom Hammick

Tom Hammick (b. 1963) studied Art History at the University of Manchester and later Fine Art Painting at Camberwell College of Art and NSCAD, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Canada. He has an MA in Printmaking, also from Camberwell, and taught Fine Art Painting and Printmaking for many years until recently at the University of Brighton. His imagery, glowing with "reverent awe", manifests itself in paintings and prints made in a purpose designed studio in Bermondsey, on the Thames. His work is informed by a passion for poetry and music, film, wonderment for the environment and deep concerns about climate catastrophe.



Max Eastley

Max Eastley (b. 1944, Torquay) is an internationally recognised artist who combines kinetic sculpture and sound into a unique art form. His sculptures exist on the border between the natural environment and human intervention and use the driving forces of electricity, wind, water and ice. He has exhibited both interior and exterior works internationally and is an artist with the Cape Farewell Climate Change Project. His work is represented in the permanent collection of the Centre for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany and private collections.



Catherine Cartwright

Catherine Cartwright is a participatory artist and printmaker currently undertaking an AHRC-funded PhD into traumasensitive arts practice at University of Exeter and University of West of England. Working with research partner Devon Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Services, she is using printmaking, collage and artist books as creative methods with service users. Catherine graduated from University of the West of England with an MA in Multidisciplinary Printmaking (2018) and also holds an MA in Museum and Gallery Education (Institute of Education 2000).



Mark Jessett

Mark Jessett (b. 1974, Oxford) is an artist specialising in works on paper. He is co-founder of contemporary art group N-E-W, staging art events and exhibitions in Ashburton, Devon, where he lives and works.

Working in acrylic on carefully selected papers, he overlays paint in fine films, often with shimmering metallics and flat solids, to explore relationships between colour, surface texture, translucency and opacity. Predominantly non-representational and often playful, his work is imbued with the flavour of magical imagery, folkloric artefacts and outdated presentations in local museums.

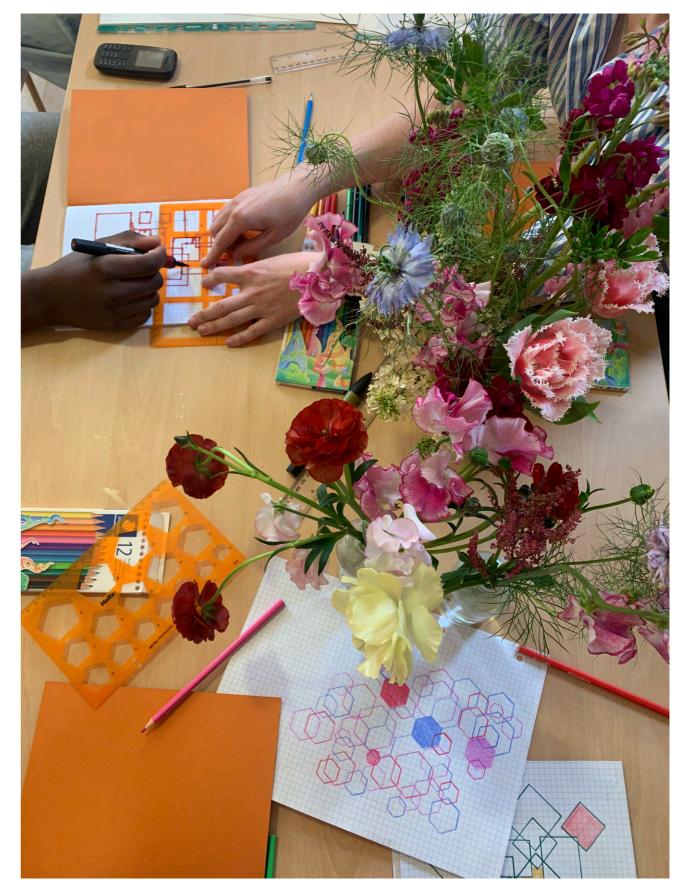


Katy Richardson

Katy Richardson (b. 1977, Cuckfield) is an artist researcher based in South Devon. She explores memory, trauma and haunting through the lenses of women's writing, medical history, and psychotherapeutic approaches. She works across moving image, installation and sound.

Workshops in hospital

Lots of our workshops take place on inpatient mental health wards with service users who might be under a Section of the Mental Health Act. We ensure every session is accessible and engaging for people who have severe and enduring mental health conditions. Our artists work with service users to ensure the artworks they make are appropriate and of interest to the people who will encounter them.



An art workshop at Springfield University Hospital

Workshops in the community

We also lead creative sessions with the wider community and those who may have been discharged from mental health services. We want to give people an opportunity to share their experiences to support and inform our artists. We also want to generate connections between local cultural and commercial organisations who may support individuals to access creativity and skills development on a longer term basis.

Five of the fifteen artists involved in our Torbay Hospital project will hold their workshops in the community, the details are as follows:

25 November Amy McCarthy St Michael the Archangel, Teignmouth

25 November Valerie Asiimwe Amani Totnes Civic Hall

8 December Cass Agazzi Brooks St Mags, Torquay

8 December Andy Harper Torre Abbey

9 December Anna Chrystal Stephens Dartmoor Activity Centre



 ${\bf Art\ workshops\ in\ Exeter\ Community\ Centre}$

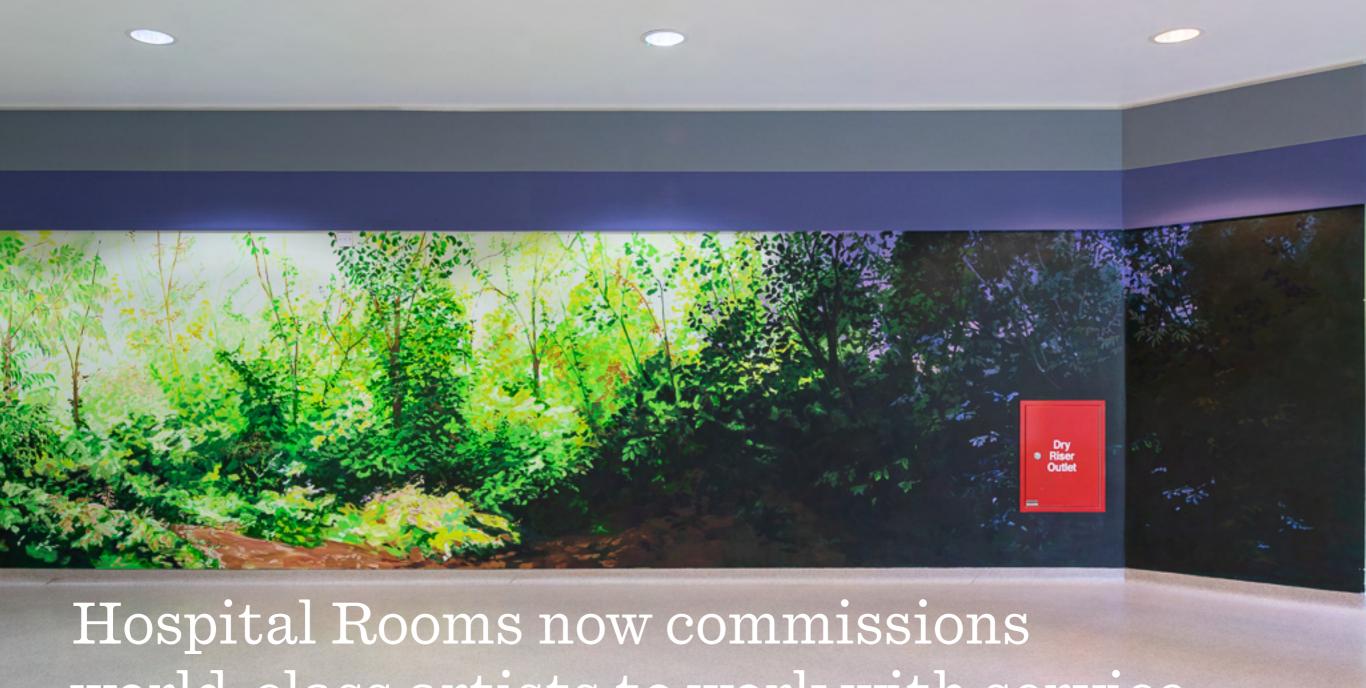
These workshops are open to everyone, although places are limited. Booking will be open from Tuesday 9th November via the Devon Recovery Learning Community. To book your place, you will need to register with the DRLC: https://devonrlc.co.uk/

HOSPITAL ROOMS

The charity Hospital Rooms was created in 2016 after a friend of the co-founders was sectioned following a suicide attempt. They realised that mental health units can be stark, cold and frightening places.







Hospital Rooms now commissions world-class artists to work with service users and staff to transform these spaces to bring hope, joy and expression.

Our artists work with service users and staff through creative workshops and we prioritise their ideas, experiences and opinions.





Sara Berman Workshop for Jasmine Lodge, Exeter

"To have somebody come along and invite you to take part in a workshop and listen to you and talk to you as an equal, that really validates you as a human being."

Service User Mother and Baby Unit, Devon Partnership Trust













Stephen Felmingham

Head of School Criticial and Cultural Studies, Plymouth College of Art





That sense of wanting to go."

Service User

Mother and Baby Unit, Devon Partnership Trust

Damian Griffiths for Centre Court

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