

Hospital Rooms & Torbay Hospital

Beech Unit | Haytor Ward | Salus Ward

MAKE Southwest
Riverside Mill, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9AF

Opening event: 24 November 2022, 6–9pm
Exhibition dates: 25 November – 17 December 2022
Opening hours: Wednesday–Saturday, 11am – 5pm



Andy Harper, Salus Ward, 2022

Hospital Rooms is delighted to present an exhibition to celebrate the completion of a major collaboration with Devon Partnership NHS Trust. Over the past year, fifteen artists have produced ambitious new artworks for three mental health inpatient wards at Torbay Hospital. This exhibition, held at MAKE Southwest in Bovey Tracey, will showcase the project, taking visitors on a journey through the process of developing original, thought-provoking artworks and transforming three ordinary, clinical wards into spaces of hope and promise.

The project has taken place at Beech Unit, Haytor Ward and the newly-built Salus Ward, with five artists allocated to each ward. All three wards provide care for adults living with acute mental health needs, with Beech looking after older people and Haytor and Salus caring for adults aged 18 and over. At Beech, artworks have been created by Catherine Cartwright, Max Eastley, Tom Hammick, Mark Jessett and Katy Richardson; at Haytor, the artists are Samuel Bassett, Jacqui Hallum, Simon Ripley, Tanoa Sasraku and Huhtamaki Wab; at Salus, they are Cass Agazzi Brooks, Andy Harper, Amy McCarthy, Ged Quinn and Anna Chrystal Stephens.

Central to the creation of the new artworks was a series of workshops hosted by the artists, during which staff, patients, care providers and members of the wider community with lived experience of mental health difficulties explored a theme or an artistic medium, collectively generating ideas for the final artwork. Artists at Beech Unit and Haytor Ward ran workshops with staff and patients on site, inviting them to express ideas and hopes about how the wards should look and feel. Meanwhile, a partnership with the Devon Recovery Learning Community enabled the artists working on Salus Ward, which was still under construction at the time of the project, to reach members of the public with lived experience. These workshops took place at venues across South Devon, with participants providing insights either from their own memories and experiences of being in hospital, or those of a family member or friend.

The exhibition will feature imagery of the final installed artworks alongside preparatory sketches and maquettes, as well as photographs of the workshops, information about the wards and reflections from artists, staff and patients. Its aim is to promote the project and generate a greater awareness of the work of Hospital Rooms, providing a space for reflection and discussion and demonstrating the importance of making art and creativity accessible to people even at the most difficult of times.

As well as the Devon Recovery Learning Community, Hospital Rooms has worked closely with Artizan Gallery, who have helped us to discover and reach creative practitioners from Torbay and South Devon. We have also received advice from Torbay Culture and Healthwatch Torbay on the wider local context, opportunities and challenges. The project has been generously supported by the Devon Partnership NHS Trust Charity, The Rayne Foundation, and Kier.

Notes for Editors

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 patients to come up with radically new visuals for each space.

Torbay Hospital is the main hospital that serves South Devon. It is managed by Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust and includes three mental health inpatient wards:

- **Beech 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.
- **Haytor 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.
- **Salus Ward** is a pioneering new mental health ward. It will help tackle the shortage of adult mental health beds in the area and ensure local people can receive care close to home.

Devon Partnership NHS Trust commissions and delivers mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity services across Devon.

MAKE Southwest is an acclaimed exhibition space for contemporary craft and design as well as a leading charity for craft education. Located in Bovey Tracey, on the edge of Dartmoor, its large galleries host inspiring exhibitions and events, encouraging people to support, make and learn about contemporary craft.

The Devon Recovery Learning Community is a Recovery College provided by Devon Partnership NHS Trust to promote mental health and wellbeing. Its students are people with lived experience of mental health difficulties, their family and friends, and the professionals who support them.

Artizan Gallery is an independent fine art gallery dedicated to championing the work of local artists in the South West. Based in Torquay, their gallery space offers a professional, affordable venue for both experienced and emerging artists, as well as providing a venue for events, groups and workshops. The gallery also manages pop-up spaces across Torbay and the South West.

Torbay Culture 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.

Healthwatch Torbay is the independent consumer champion for health and social care in Torbay, South Devon – home to over 139,000 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).

Devon Partnership NHS Trust Charity gives hope and support to those with mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity needs across Devon and nationally. The charity raises funds to make a difference to the people they care for and provides a platform which encourages recovery, wellbeing and draws closer links to the community.

The Rayne Foundation looks for creative ways of tackling entrenched social issues through the arts, health, wellbeing, and education. They support projects that can be replicated and led by people with vision.

Kier is a construction and infrastructure services company whose aim is to sustainably deliver infrastructure which is vital to the UK. They have been responsible for the construction of Salus Ward and a new Acute Medical Unit at Torbay Hospital.