



# The work of art in hospitals

**From woodland scenes to giant installations,  
art and music help to transform our hospitals.**

**The importance of art** in public places can often be overlooked or trivialised. But at Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals, having listened to patients, we know the huge difference a positive environment can make – and that art and music can transform a patient's experience in hospital.

The new Cancer Centre is a prime example of a building where this ethos has been incorporated into the overall design – the theme of 'bringing the outside in' has created an uplifting and positive space for all, which is already being applauded by patients, staff and experts alike.

The artwork has recently been commended in the Building Better Healthcare Awards, and in November's Cancer Centre Open Day visitors were delighted by the art in the Centre. One recent email that summed up the thoughts of many, talked of being truly moved by the imagery in the Oncology Waiting Room and inspired by the sense of nature – and thanked the artist for their wonderful creation.

Ruth Charity, the Trust Art Coordinator, explains: 'Feedback on the arts programme has been overwhelming. Patients, visitors and staff feel it has turned a clinical spaces into welcoming, positive and engaging places to visit and work – which is so important when people are dealing with their deepest fears.'

The majority of artwork at the Cancer Centre has been funded by Churchill Construction Consortium as part of their agreement with the Trust, whilst other works have been paid for by charitable donations.

The Centre has also recently benefitted from the generous gift of a baby grand piano which was immediately put into good use at a Christmas Concert. Ed Bernard, who came up with the idea of having a piano in the hospital, approached Marcus Roberts of Robert's Pianos in Oxford who gave a very generous discount to enable the purchase. Ed explains: 'I am truly delighted that we have managed to bring music into the Cancer Centre. I know that these small touches can make a very real difference to patients at a difficult time.'

At the John Radcliffe site in the Community Atrium connecting the Children's Hospital and West Wing, we are getting ready for our biggest venture into public art, in collaboration with a world renowned artist, Michael Craig-Martin.



Craig-Martin, whose work is in the collections of New York's Museum of Modern Art and Tate Modern, and has taught the likes of Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin, will rejuvenate a 21 metre high wall into a fabulously colourful creation.

Felicity Waley-Cohen, a long term Children's Hospital supporter who instigated this project, understands only too well the importance of environment in patients' lives. She lost her son, Thomas, to cancer five years ago and knows that time spent in hospital should be made as positive as possible. She explains: 'This work of art is going to transform the atrium and more importantly the lives of all those children who look out onto it, sometimes for weeks or even months at a time. It will make the environment as wonderful as the wards and care at the Children's Hospital.'

This project will be funded entirely through charitable gifts given specifically for art and is made possible through the generosity of the artist, the Waley-Cohen family, the Alan Cristea Gallery and Carillion. Help is still needed, however, to cover installation costs. So if you would like to support this or other arts projects, or buy a limited-edition print of the artwork by Michael Craig-Martin being sold to benefit the project, find out more by visiting the children's section on [www.orhcharitablefunds.nhs.uk](http://www.orhcharitablefunds.nhs.uk). You are also welcome to visit the atrium from mid February to mid March to watch the painting in progress.



**To find out about art projects across  
all our hospitals please contact  
[ruth.charity@orh.nhs.uk](mailto:ruth.charity@orh.nhs.uk)**

## THE GIFT OF LEGACIES Help the good work live on

Legacies also have the ability to make transformations. Throughout the ORH Trust – the John Radcliffe, the Heart and Cancer Centres, the Churchill, Horton General and Children's Hospitals and across numerous medical research programmes based here, it would be hard to find a corner that hasn't been touched by the amazing benefits that legacies can bring.

Lesley Hurdley, who makes sure that legacies are spent as the donor has wished, explains: 'In recent months legacy gifts that range from £500 to £50,000 have been used to maximum effect – from boosting the Haematology Research Fund to paying for state-of-the-art equipment at the Glaucoma Clinic in the Eye Hospital. The generosity of people who have remembered the care they or their family received here is truly inspiring.'

'People who leave a gift to Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals can be sure that their money is spent locally and according to their wishes – and that patients long into the future will benefit from their kindness. It truly is a wonderful gift.'

**If you or your solicitor would like to talk  
about wording for a legacy for the Trust  
please call Lesley Hurdley on 01865 222105**

**To find out what your legacy could do  
(including naming possibilities at the Trust)  
call Marianne Julebin on 01865 231523**

