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Monograph

Title: Public realm design projects

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Note: Art at Roseberry Park

<http://nectar.northampton.ac.uk/6087/>





Art at Roseberry Park



Introduction

Roseberry Park in Middlesbrough is a flagship facility which provides mental health services for working age adults and older people, as well as treatment and care for people with learning disabilities. It is a key part of Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust's plans to completely modernise its clinical services and to deliver those services from facilities that are at the cutting edge of mental health care. Considerable care and attention has gone into ensuring that the architecture, the buildings and the artworks complement the specialist care provided in Roseberry Park.

TEWV believes the inclusion of art works is a crucial element in the creation of a high quality patient environment. Art Consultants Grit & Pearl were appointed by the Trust to commission and manage the art for Roseberry Park. Following a consultation and research process with key staff members and service users, a number of artists were commissioned to create a series of inspirational and calming pieces of work for both the interior and exterior of the building.

Artworks can be found throughout Roseberry Park – sometimes in unexpected locations – and although they are in a variety of styles and materials, a key theme linking many of them is the natural world and the power of healing connected with it.

The outcome is truly outstanding and has exceeded the Trust's expectations. One visiting journalist described Roseberry Park as "an ace art gallery with a very nice hospital attached". We hope that you agree and will take the opportunity to enjoy the artworks that do so much to enhance the environment of Roseberry Park.

Jo Turnbull

Chairman

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

www.tewv.nhs.uk/roseberrypark

Tale of the Ironopolis

Jayne Wallace and Culture Lab

Reminiscence Therapy is a well established practice for working with service users who have difficulty with short-term memory but can remember things from their past. Some objects and imagery have particular meanings and associations that are familiar and reassuring, and which allow service users to interact with their carers more fully.

Through academic research and workshops with care staff in Roseberry Park's Older People's Unit, artist Dr Jayne Wallace and her colleagues at Newcastle University's Culture Lab have developed a unique project that takes reminiscence therapy and applies both cutting-edge technology and an artist's creativity to it.

Difficult to describe but very easy to use, service users and their carers can select one of seven beautiful clear resin orbs from a display cabinet in the corridor of the Older People's Unit, and take it into the reminiscence room. Inside the room are comfortable seats facing a 1950s style TV cabinet, and when the orb is placed on the cabinet a 'movie' of video clips, audio and images plays automatically.

The decision as to which orb to choose is one of personal preference, and six of the orbs play movies on different themes – Great British Holiday, Knitting and Sewing, Nature, Middlesbrough Local Identity, Middlesbrough Football, and Objects (1930s to 1970s) – and have clues about the theme encased within them. The seventh orb can contain more personal imagery from the 'all-about-me' folders that each service user has created with help from their carers. The hidden technology behind the project, developed by Culture Lab, makes the process incredibly simple with nothing to switch on or adjust



Roseberry Birdboxes

[Henry Amos](#), [Martin Borchert](#), [Deadgood](#) and [Ashley Hipkin](#)

Spread throughout Roseberry Park's landscaped gardens and courtyards are forty unique birdboxes that have been specially commissioned from four designers. Each designer has responded differently to the opportunity, but all bring a strong element of humour to Roseberry Park and, hopefully, some birds as well.

Ashley Hipkin has hand-turned a set of organic forms from different hardwoods, with each one looking as much like a piece of nature as it does a home for nature. Also on a nature theme, Dutch artist Martin Borchert's nesting boxes are suckered to the walls like a barnacle on a seaside rock, and like barnacles there is life behind the hard shell.

The bright colours of Martin's nest boxes are echoed in the giant eggs created by design duo Dan Ziglam and Elliott Brook of Deadgood Ltd. The beautifully made eggs are hand-turned by local craftsmen and are based on the simple idea of a bird hatching out of an egg, with a cartoon 'crack' in the front that provides the access point for the nesting birds.

Architect and lighting designer Henry Amos has designed elaborately ornamental bird-boxes referencing the cornices of classical architecture, creating a miniature gold-leafed palace for each bird. The birdboxes play with Roseberry Park's architecture – some of them appearing to 'hold up' roofs.





Finding Ways

Richard Hollinshead and Carolyn Jess-Cooke

The *Finding Ways* poems are the centrepiece of the arts commissions at Roseberry Park. The journey of this steel ribbon of words cuts through gardens and hallways; it forks, twists and rises from the ground to become seats. It has multiple endings, and in reality is several poems with a common starting point at the main entrance. This is poetry to be read whilst walking, and has a very different feel to a poem you might encounter on a page.

The poem refers to the history of the area, including Captain James Cook, the Spanish Armada, Odin the Nordic god of poetry; and to themes suggested by staff and patients. The landscape enhances the meaning in the poem, and the poem enhances the experience of the landscape. Sit on one of the poetry seats and you'll notice that your feet are on the word footsteps, or that you're sitting on the word throne. Walk through a tiled corridor and the poem describes the click click of your feet.

Finding Ways is a beautiful poem that is far more than a ribbon of steel words that lead you on a journey through the site. It is a poem that can only be fully understood in Middlesbrough, in Roseberry Park, and in person. Carolyn's words are there to help on a journey through a healing process, a journey of understanding and of moving on – literally helping you to Find Ways.







Roseberry Topping and the North York Moors

Joe Cornish

Roseberry Park is named after the distinctive and instantly recognisable local landmark Roseberry Topping, and individual wards are named after scenic areas of the North York Moors such as Bransdale, Bilsdale, Leystone, Rudland and Westerdale. Renowned photographer Joe Cornish was commissioned to photograph these picturesque views in the various seasons, creating a stunning set of images from which service users selected the hospital's collection.

Joe Cornish's aim has been to capture the atmosphere, colour, texture, tones, space and light of the North York Moors, and bring that experience into Roseberry Park. His panoramic photographs are displayed throughout the reception areas and corridors, with their scale almost allowing the viewer into the picture and offering a very direct experience of nature.



Biltsdale, Winter

Invincible Summer

Julian Stocks

The intention of the Multi-faith Space is to create a sanctuary within the hospital grounds, and the glass artwork by Julian Stocks plays an important role in creating this beneficial environment. The theme for the artwork is the redemptive qualities of Hope; an inspirational concept that is central to all religious faiths, but which also communicates a positive and supportive outlook to the religious and secular alike. The light that flows into the room through the glass is infused with warmth and optimism.

Julian was selected by the Roseberry Park Chaplaincy team to work with them and their service users on the development of the artwork for the Multi-Faith Chapel space. Known for his subtle use of text within a design, the artwork incorporates the word Hope in many different languages as well as messages of hope suggested by service users. The title of the artwork is *Invincible Summer*, referring to a text about hope by the writer Albert Camus which reads *"In the depth of winter, I found there was within me an invincible summer"*.





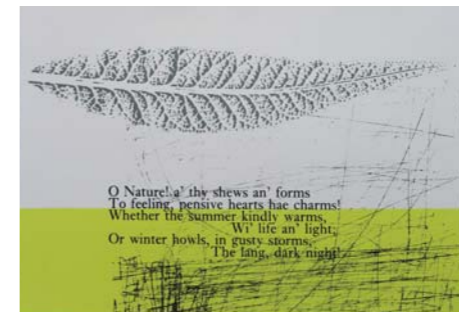
Multi-Faith Space

Eva Bauer, Louise Cattrell, Mark Huit, Bridget Jones, Norman Mathieson, Anja Percival, Eunice Routledge and Donald Wilkinson

The artworks on display in the Multi-Faith spaces at Roseberry Park were selected by the Chaplaincy team from the collection of artists' prints at the workshops and gallery of Northern Print – the regional centre of excellence for contemporary printmaking. Although created by different processes – screenprints, etchings, monoprints and lithographs – and in various styles, each of the prints was chosen for its spiritual qualities. Displayed together in a room illuminated by the *Invincible Summer* glass artwork, the collection of prints creates a welcoming and supportive environment for service-users, staff and visitors.



'Station Light IX' Anja Percival



'Hope's buddleia' Bridget Jones



'Kozue' Norman Mathieson

Autumn Leaves

Catrin Jones

Selected by a forum of service users and staff, the designs for the café by glass artist Catrin Jones stem from her own photographs of maple leaves on an autumn day. From these Catrin has created a richly coloured autumnal forest floor with a sense of movement and seasonal change, and this reference to nature's cycles serves as a vibrant reminder of life's ebb and flow. The café is filled with a warm light that is anything but clinical, and by using opaque ceramic enamels on etched glass the design can be seen equally well from inside and outside the café.



Day Room Glass

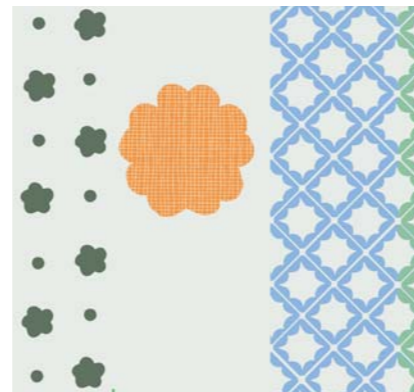
Effie Burns, Kathryn Hodgkinson and Sue Woolhouse

A focal feature for each of the patient day rooms is the intricate glass designs by artists Effie Burns, Kathryn Hodgkinson and Sue Woolhouse. Each one is created by screen-printing layers of enamel onto glass, which were then fired and toughened before being made into double-glazed windows.

Effie Burns has taken an abstract approach to natural imagery, combining the regularity of bold graphic patterns with more organic hand-drawn clouds and plants forms. Her colourful approach takes inspiration from clouds, flower blossoms, domestic patterns and Rorschach's famous 'ink blots'.

Kathryn Hodgkinson's work has a dream-like quality, with images of common local birds and other forms from nature serving as a quiet reminder to pay attention to our everyday interactions with the natural world. Because the design was printed in several layers the effect is a surface that changes depending on the viewpoint, the weather and the time of day.

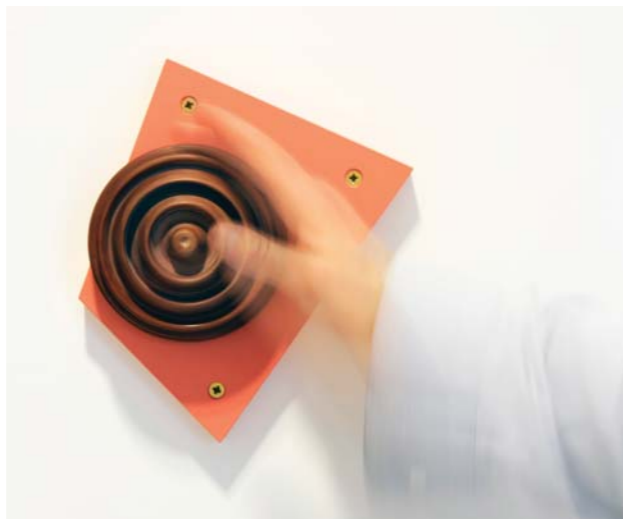
Sue Woolhouse's designs use her own beautiful images of plants and animals, captured through photography, charcoal drawings and rubbings of textured surfaces, and also Thomas Bewick's wood-cut engravings of fishes. Sue printed with a limited palette of three colours, ensuring that her complex designs work well in the day rooms.



Wander Route

Ashley Hipkin

The Older People's Unit at Roseberry Park commissioned a series of wall-mounted artworks that are both creative and functional, which aim to engage and provide stimulation for service-users as they walk round the ward corridors. Responding to this brief, sculptor Ashley Hipkin created a series of intriguing objects in wood, resin and stone that have interactive, tactile and sensory qualities.



Floraduct – St Luke's Garden

Alan Micklethwaite

The new Roseberry Park facility replaces the St Luke's Hospital that stood in the same grounds since the Victorian era. St Luke's was a well-known local landmark, and although many of the service users and staff at Roseberry Park bring with them their memories of St Luke's no other reminders of the hospital remain on site.

During the demolition process sculptor Alan Micklethwaite has salvaged the original sandstone portico from St Luke's main entrance. Working in his studio, he is reimagining the portico into a new form and for a new location. The stone, like the service users and staff, is literally going on a journey. A sunken garden has been created in the new plaza of Roseberry Park to accommodate the sculpture, which will be installed in Spring 2011.





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Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust