

Thank you for your kind offer of art for the hospital, we are very pleased that you would like to show your appreciation this way. We will be glad to work with you to decide the best options for your generous offer.

Background to art in our hospital

ArtCare is the charitably funded arts in health project at Salisbury District Hospital. Our role over the past 30 years has included managing the permanent art collections, historic archives and temporary exhibitions on the corridors, on behalf of Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust and Salisbury Hospital Charitable Fund (Stars Appeal).

Temporary exhibitions are usually programmed 12-18 months in advance and are curated under the guidance of ArtCare to support local art groups and artists.

The permanent collection comprises of around 2000 pieces of mainly contemporary works which have either been commissioned, created with our local community, collected or donated. Most of this work is not funded by the National Health Service and has been supported by charitable grants, donations and the sale of exhibition artwork.

We are a small team of part-time of experienced artists and curators specialising in working in public, visual and participatory arts.

Some reasons why we have art in hospital:

- Art can brighten and distract patients, staff and visitors in busy clinical areas
- It can bring pleasure and offer new skills to those taking part in its production
- It can be an opportunity for us to connect within our local community
- Art can also help with wayfinding and support patient environment standards (ie. PLACE settings for dementia patients)
- Art can also tell a story and illustrate ideas to others (such as our Look at Me project with Cleft Lip and Palate service)

Our checklist for accepting artworks:

Long-term planning

ArtCare has no annual budget to frame, clean, preserve or insure the collection so we have to think carefully about the long-term consequences of receiving artwork. This includes taking into consideration any future financial impact this may have along with making a risk assessment.

This all sounds very discouraging but the hospital and charities associated with the hospital receive numerous thoughtful offers of art from supporters, for which we are very grateful. In order that the hospital can look after artworks responsibly ArtCare follows these guidelines when considering an offer of an art donation:

1. Donations with conditions

We are unable to accept donations with conditions and restrictions, such as the requirement that items will never be sold, disposed or will always be on display in a certain position. Our building is always under modifications and artwork needs to be portable and move to different locations if needed.

2. Space and materials

Our risk assessment considers the materials the artwork is made from. The hospital public areas lack environmental controls against humidity, light and temperature which can damage the artwork over time.

Infection control in the hospital is also paramount and rigorous cleaning is required in many areas. Therefore, unframed canvas artworks or textiles cannot often be displayed without frame or cover as they cannot be thoroughly cleaned and therefore increase the risk of harbouring germs.

Framing and scale of the artwork will be considered as most donations offered for display are created for domestic setting rather than large spaces. A framed work that looks wonderful in a house will often be too small for a large public waiting room or hospital corridor.

We take seriously the potential not to cause public injury from accidental breakages from glass, fragile frames or contact with 3D elements on sculptures. Previously, we found it difficult to find financial resources to re-mount or frame donations to make them suitable for display. We also have a busy public building with 24-hour access in places which makes security and insurance a risk. For all these reasons we are also unable to take responsibility for art on loan.

3. Content

This is a hospital setting with visitors and patients who can often be stressed or upset (and do not always make an active choice to see the artwork as they would with an art gallery or museum). Our artwork, whilst can sometimes be challenging, should not cause undue upset because of the topic depicted.

Likewise, hospital artworks are often created to reflect local connection or as part of a wider theme; donations need to suit the other items already in our collection so that overall the hospital has a harmonious effect on people working, visiting and staying in the building.

What's next?

- We may ask you some technical questions about your artwork - such as size, material, frame condition, delivery/collection options
- If you are not the artist we will ask about who created the work, any background details, ownership and any copyright details that may apply

We have a small team working part-time which may mean we may not be able to immediately deal with the details, depending on our current projects activities and capacity. Main reception staff are also unable to receive spontaneous gifts.

Together with you we will discuss the options for accepting artwork, which could include:

- Entry into our permanent collection
- Submitting the piece into one of our temporary exhibitions for sale
- Using an image of the original work if it is not possible to accept the actual piece itself. A digital scan or photograph of the work can either be printed onto hospital grade materials, used in patient information or ward creative activities to enhance patient experience of a hospital stay

Contact information: sft.artcare@nhs.net 01722 336262 ext 5617