

**JOURNEYS: THE HEALING ARTS**

In partnership with Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (CW+)

PRESS RELEASE**22 November 2021****JOURNEYS:
THE HEALING ARTS****Saatchi Gallery partners with hospital charity CW+ to present their first 'Arts in Health' exhibition - *Journeys: The Healing Arts***

- Exhibition is running from 24th November 2021 until 13th January 2022
- World Premiere of new digital work *Midlands*, 2021 by **Brian Eno**

Monday 22nd November 2021, London: Saatchi Gallery and CW+, the charity of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, have partnered to present a first-of-its-kind 'Arts in Health' exhibition at the gallery. *Journeys: The Healing Arts*, is a selection of bespoke artworks from the CW+ art collection, commissioned to enhance the environment and improve patient outcomes at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. This is the first time CW+ has exhibited artworks from its collection on this scale to a wider public within a gallery setting.

CW+'s award-winning 'Arts in Health' programme was established when Chelsea and Westminster Hospital was actually built in 1993, located just one mile from Saatchi Gallery. Art was integral to the design and bespoke artworks built into the hospital's foundations. Since then, CW+'s pioneering 'Arts in Health' programme has evolved to combine visual and performing arts with live music and dance; participatory music, art and craft workshops; film screenings; innovative design and green spaces; as well as a collection of over 2,000 works of art and digital installations to transform and improve the hospital environment for patients, families, volunteers and staff.

Saatchi Gallery first partnered with CW+ in September 2021 when the gallery shared virtual access to the renowned exhibition '*JR: Chronicles*'. The hospital community could virtually visit the exhibition online and via patient bed-side screens as part of CW+'s online 'Arts in Health' programme, which was created in 2020 in response to the pandemic when the charity's in-person participatory activities had to stop.

Journeys: The Healing Arts exhibits over 20 artists and explores the different communities and stories that make up Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. This unique exhibition explores the journey from traditional drawn artworks through to innovative digital and screen-based artworks, including a new commission created by musician and artist **Brian Eno**. Many of the drawn artworks capture life in the hospital during the pandemic and are a visual representation of the way the hospital and its communities changed so dramatically. The exhibition also explores the place that both these mediums have within the hospital community and displays art that reflects care, support and recovery.

Brian Eno, British musician and featured artist, says: *“To be part of the CW+ exhibition at Saatchi Gallery is a great honour. For a number of years, I’ve worked with the CW+ team in creating works that provide a positive and calming environment, something that seems vital in a patient’s experience and recovery. My latest work, Midlands, aims to take patients on both a physical and emotional journey, to hopefully relieve some of the anxiety or pain they might be experiencing. It is fantastic to be exhibited in such a splendid gallery alongside so many other wonderful artworks all with a mutual aim of expediting healing through art.”*

Laura Uccello, Director of Partnerships at Saatchi Gallery, says: *“Working closely with CW+ has allowed Saatchi Gallery to share free access to contemporary art to their wide hospital community. We are delighted to be exhibiting ‘Journeys’ and sharing with our visitors the meaningful impact that the visual arts have on Chelsea and Westminster Hospital’s commissioned artists, patients, volunteers and staff members.”*

Trystan Hawkins, Arts Director at CW+, says: *“We are thrilled to be partnering with Saatchi Gallery to present this unique exhibition. Thanks to our generous supporters, we’re able to work with these incredible artists to transform the hospital experience and environment for our patients, their families and our hardworking staff. I am delighted that for the first time the wider community can now also enjoy these artworks and learn more about our innovative programme of work.”*

For more information about *Journeys: The Healing Arts*, please visit:

<https://www.saatchigallery.com/exhibition/journeys>

The exhibition is free entry and will be on view at Saatchi Gallery in Galleries 1 and 2 on the Ground Floor.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Anouk Mercier – 50 Nurses. Created in parallel with the CW+ heritage project celebrating the 300th anniversary of the original Westminster Hospital, *50 Nurses* displays 50 portraits of nurses and addressed the significant lack of female representation throughout both the hospital archives and the charity’s historic art collection. It specifically responded to the

discovery of a 1919 photograph of Westminster nurses, which omitted to record any of the photographed women's names.

University of West England: Gary Embury, Lucy Ward and Anouk Mercier – *Drawn II*.

The CW+ Drawn in Residence II project charts, records, and describes the impact of COVID-19 on our hospital communities, in partnership with the Tavolozza Foundation. The Drawn in Residence Series II programme and portfolio of work aims to document, explore, and capture the changing roles of staff during the pandemic, our new hospital environments, the role of arts – particularly drawing – in healthcare settings, and how the pandemic has shaped this.

Emily Thomas – *That's what we're here for*. During her residency, Emily shadowed the volunteers team; engaging with their daily activities and having valuable conversations. Drawing on location allowed her to be fully engaged with the subject matter she portrayed and include quotes from conversations that add different angles and perspectives to her work.

Olivier Krugler and Tim King – *Reportage*. The CW+ Reportage project records the daily life within the hospital, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on our Trust. This on-going residency chronicles the stories of our patients and staff, particularly capturing the unseen workers in the hospital. The artists have spent time in the hospital, on the wards, in theatres, attending clinics, shadowing catering and cleaning teams, and generally gaining insight and understanding of our hospital community. This project is a collaboration between artists, healthcare professionals, and all the staff who are key to keeping our hospital running.

Carlos Penalver – *Best For You (Live Drawing)*. Carlos produced this work for the CW+ Best For You programme following an interview with a young user of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. The interview shared the patient's past and current experiences of Mental Health services, and the creative outcome of work is a series of images representing stages of these experiences, like a timeline.

Brian Eno – *Midlands*. As part of our RELAX Digital programme, we commissioned Brian Eno to create new digital artwork. It will be installed in the waiting area of the Fracture Clinic, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. [more info tbc]

Accademia – *The Digital Zoo*. Research has shown that exposure to images of nature reduces anxiety and improves patient outcomes. *The Digital Zoo* is designed to distract, engage and calm children whilst they wait and receive care in the paediatric waiting and treatment rooms at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital's emergency department.

Paola Estrella – *Synchronicity*. Synchronicity explores the entanglement between performance, meditation, and film. Through a process in which the artist connects with the beauty that can be found in the process of transformation, she practiced a series of movements across natural landscapes in the South of England. By observing the relationship between the body of the performer and elements such as plants, flowers, and water, this work aims to open a space to unwind.

Min Young Kim – *Companion*. Companion is a real-time and sensor-based simulation plant, originally designed to be installed within hospital wards. The inspiration came from the large-scale greenhouse-like constructions of the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, the team

generated virtual plant avatars that are designed to be hypersensitive to uncontrollable natural factors within the hospital, such as living noise and natural light.

James Hope Faulkner – *Project Willow*. James' peaceful journeys are recorded from the first-person perspective and displayed to individual or groups of patients throughout their treatment. Viewers are drawn into the immersive effect of the first-person forward movement, as if they themselves were on the journey. The nature of this content will not only mitigate feelings of boredom and anxiety in patients but also physical symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, fatigue and pain.

Owen Diplock – *Sunrises*. A series of elegantly captured films of the Spring sunrise unfolding in real time. Shot at various pastoral locations across Hertfordshire, these meditative and visually arresting films were as calming and restorative to create as they are to watch. Take a moment out of your day to observe this remarkable everyday occurrence in maximum detail and without interruption.

Morgan Beringer – *Seasonal*. Seasonal is an hour-long ambient video work that gradually cycles through landscapes and textures representing each of the four seasons, becoming something of an abstract clock. It is intended to invite reflection upon how we perceive and delineate the passage of time, and the way we define or symbolically represent the seasons.

Kit Mead – *Liquid Crystal*. The digital screen is made up of pixels; slippery things that morph and change continuously into new and different forms. *Liquid Crystal* uses the mutability of the digital screen to generate an animation of metamorphoses where objects and forms continually change with the intention of creating a situation where the viewer can be swept away in the malleable sea of the pixel.

Eda Sarman – *Favourite Colour*. *Favourite Colour* was created by patients for patients. Eda worked with long-term patients and held marbling workshops at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Sarman gave space for the Stroke and Paediatric patients to explore the question "What is your favourite colour?". The resulting film is a composition of the patient group exploring their favourite colours and creating ever-changing patterns.

Sara Choudhrey – *Cascade*. *Cascade* is a vector animation, presenting a geometric composition reminiscent of Islamic visual arts, with floral motifs and line-work based on an isometric grid. The composition is displayed in alternating, undulating form, at sparing moments almost static, indicating the unity of the polygonal structure and the sub-divided shapes. The shapes fit together in mathematical harmony and are dispersed with soft petals, referencing a contrasting organic matter.

Stateless Studios – *Circadian Cycles*. Through careful consultation with CW+ and David Erskine staff, circadian rhythms and calming imagery of nature inform this 12-hour cyclical content. By working with a combination of photography and animation, warm and relaxing films of sky, with subtle changes and movement, create a window into the outside world. As a respiratory unit, David Erskine ward is often a place of high stress for both staff, patients and visitors. By providing a presence of nature and time, this artwork aims to create a sense of calm.

Genesis Arts – Immersive Healing Arts System. An innovative, interactive digital art installation at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, for patients and staff to experience interactive audio-visual art that induces positive moods and emotions.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Dates and Opening Hours:

Open to the public: 24 November 2021 – 13 January 2022
10am – 6pm, Monday - Sunday (last admission 5.00pm)
Closed Christmas Day & Boxing Day

Admission:

Free entry, pre-booking not required

Images:

Publicity images can be downloaded via this [link](#). By downloading the images, you acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions found within the link. These images can only be reproduced to illustrate a review or criticism of a work or report as defined by section 30 (i) and (ii) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Social Media:

Join the discussion about the exhibition online at:

#CWSAATCHIGALLERY

Instagram, Twitter: @saatchi_gallery @cwpluscharity
Facebook: @saatchigalleryofficial @cwpluscharity

School Visits & Community Groups:

With the generous support of all our patrons, for Gallery exhibitions there are opportunities to engage with creative projects and workshops whether that be in-gallery, virtually, in the classroom or at home. education@saatchigallery.com | +44(0)20 7811 3087

Safety Measures:

The health and safety of visitors and staff is paramount. Safety measures for visitors can be found on the Saatchi Gallery website: www.saatchigallery.com/visit/covid-19-compliance

ABOUT CW+ AND THEIR AWARD-WINNING ARTS IN HEALTH PROGRAMME

CW+ is the official charity of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust including its hospitals and clinics. The charity's generous supporters and partners enable it to:

- Build and enhance clinical facilities to create an outstanding healing environment for patients and staff
- Deliver a unique arts in health programme to transform the experience and wellbeing of our patients
- Invest in health innovation to deliver exceptional patient care

Our arts in health programme combines digital, visual and performing arts with innovative design to transform the hospital experience and environment for patients, their families and the staff who care for them. Our visual and digital arts collection, displayed in Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, is made up of over 2,000 artworks, many of which are bespoke commissions. The charity released its very own published book 'The Healing Arts' in 2019 which documents the history of the arts in health programme and explores its exciting future.

www.cwplus.org.uk

CWPLUS Registered Charity No.1169897

ABOUT CHELSEA AND WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is one of the top ranked and top performing hospital trusts in the UK. We employ more than 6,000 staff over our two main hospital sites, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and West Middlesex University Hospital, and across 12 community-based clinics within North West London. We were rated Outstanding for Well-Led and Use of Resources by the Care Quality Commission.

www.chelwest.nhs.uk

ABOUT SAATCHI GALLERY

Since 1985, Saatchi Gallery has provided an innovative platform for contemporary art. Exhibitions have presented works by largely unseen young artists, or by international artists whose work has been rarely or never exhibited in the UK. This approach has made the Gallery one of the most recognised names in contemporary art. Since moving to its current 70,000 square feet space in the Duke of York's Headquarters in Chelsea, London, the Gallery has welcomed over 10 million visitors. The Gallery hosts over 5,000 schools visits annually and has over 6 million followers on social media. In 2019 Saatchi Gallery became a charity, beginning a new chapter in its history.

www.saatchigallery.com

Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York's HQ, King's Rd, Chelsea, London SW3 4RY

Saatchi Gallery, London registered charity No. 1182328

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