

01.07.2025

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Media Release

International award-winning art and design at the Dyson Cancer Centre

The RUH's Art at the Heart team and Arcadis have been awarded a European Healthcare Design Award for the use of interior design, art and sculpture in the Dyson Cancer Centre.

The prestigious award recognises projects that demonstrate exceptional skill in creating a compassionate healthcare environment, through the use of interior design and art.

As part of the work to develop the Dyson Cancer Centre, Art at the Heart and the interior design team from Arcadis worked with patients and staff and the wider community to develop a 'Land, Water, Sky' theme, used throughout the building.

Thoughtful interior design, the use of natural light and over 100 artworks and art installations - many of which are influenced by the local environment - create a soothing and welcoming space, to balance the high-tech facilities housed in the centre.

Hetty Dupays, Art at the Heart Art Design Manager said: "It's a huge honour to be awarded this accolade – we were up against some incredible projects from as far afield as Singapore and the USA, so to have an NHS building recognised in this way is really special.

"The Dyson Cancer Centre provides care for people and their loved ones at a difficult time in their lives. Our aim was to bring 'the outside in' as we know what a difference a calm, welcoming space, focused on nature can make. We've incorporated natural light, external spaces, greenery and artwork, all of which are known to have a positive effect on healing and patient experience.

"We've been so fortunate to work with an incredible range of artists and designers, both local and international, to create an exceptional space. The feedback we have had has been really positive – patients tell us what an uplifting environment it is.

“We’ve also been very grateful for the support we have received from our community, including Steve Rose, who acted as our patient representative and volunteer arts advisors Lucy Wildman and Diana Latham, who were also instrumental in raising funding for the art programme at the Hope Ball charity auctions.”

The majority of the art works in the centre have been funded by the RUH’s official charity, RUHX, as part of an innovative and aspiring arts programme which delivers exhibitions, live music, and creative activities, for patients, visitors and staff at the Royal United Hospitals Bath.

The centre was also supported by individual donors, who funded works such as Hamish Mackie’s ‘Swifts’ sculpture. The sculpture of swifts in flight is the focal point of a specially designed courtyard which allows patients the opportunity to spend time outside, even if they are unable to leave their hospital bed.

Many of the artworks can be seen on the [Art at the Heart website](#), along with an Arts Map and accompanying booklet ‘Art Stories’ which was designed by Bath Spa University graphics student, Ella Smith. ‘Art Stories’ is also available in the Dyson Cancer Centre.

Artists featured in the permanent display found across the Dyson Cancer Centre are:

- **Kate Bond:** Green Heart Garden. (3 commissions)
- **Natasha Clutterbuck:** The Forest Garden
- **Dornith Doherty:** Husk Corn
- **Lady Deirdre Dyson:** Bullrushes
- **Chrystel Lebas:** Sensing woodland by Chrystel Lebas: video projection, 8 channels sound. (Sound designer, Paul Ricardson)
- **Chrystel Lebas:** Plant Portraits (photograms)
- **Hamish Mackie:** Bronze Swifts
- **Heidi Morstang:** Deep Time Ammonites and various
- **Bruce Munro:** Time and Again (Light installation)
- **Mark Sands:** Bee Eaters in Olive Trees
- **Amy Shelton:** Honeyscribe: Botanica #2 (lightbox)
- **Lisa Todd:** Ubuntu Collection

Since opening in spring 2024, the Dyson Cancer Centre has supported the RUH to provide the highest quality of cancer care for around 340 people a day from Bath, Wiltshire and the wider South West community.

Ends

Notes to Editor:

Art at the Heart

Art at the Heart supports the RUH Bath with an art and design programme that stimulates healing and well-being and creates an uplifting environment for patients, visitors and staff.

We provide the RUH with Bath's largest and most accessible gallery space, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We reach on average 200,000 people per year through exhibitions, workshops, performances and design including:

- a professional live public music programme.
- reminiscence workshops based on the Older Patient Wards.
- fully inclusive music service ran by our Musician in Residence.
- integrating artworks and design into new builds and refurbishments.

RUH

At the RUH we're proud to put people at the heart of what we do, striving to create an environment where everyone matters. Everyone means the people we care for, the people we work with and the people in our community.

We provide a wide range of services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

We also provide specialist services for rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME via the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases which we acquired in 2015.

In 2021, we acquired Sulis Hospital Bath, an independent hospital that provides care for both private and NHS patients. This has enabled us to provide more care for NHS patients, as well as continuing to provide private care to those who choose it. Any additional income earned through private care is reinvested in services for the benefit of the people we care for at both Sulis and the RUH.

Our new Dyson Cancer Centre brings together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof to provide a cancer services hub for over 500,000 people in the South West. The centre includes the RUH's oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services, a 22-bed inpatient ward, a dedicated pharmacy, research team and nuclear medicine and physics teams.

A key feature of the new centre is the Macmillan Wellbeing Hub. The three-storey hub provides a welcoming, non-clinical space designed around the needs of patients and their families. It also includes comfortable accommodation where relatives and loved ones can stay overnight.

We work closely with other health and care organisations as members of the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board. We strive to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in our community by working together build one of the healthiest places to live and work.

We are rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk