

The
Suttie Arts
Space

Grampian Hospitals
Art Trust

Foresterhill—— Past, Present and Future

4th Sept - 26th Nov 2023

Jo Gilbert
Flying Lion
Adrian Reid
Carla Smith
Nina Stanger



GRAMPIAN HOSPITALS ART TRUST

As part of our continued collaboration with NHS Grampian Archives, GHAT has commissioned 5 local artists to explore the absorbing history and future of Foresterhill Health Campus. Each artist was invited to choose from a selection of images held in the archives, as a basis for them to create new work while investigating the Foresterhill site.

The work you can see in this new exhibition ranges from photography, collage, through to printmaking, creative writing and digital imagery and sound.

We are pleased to be able to showcase the work of Jo Gilbert, Flying Lion, Adrian Reid, Carla Smith and Nina Stanger.

Fiona Musk - NHS Grampian Archivist

'NHS Grampian Archives and Grampian Hospitals Art Trust have been working together to find out more about the Joint Hospitals Scheme, its origins and development, and how it created the Foresterhill Health Campus of today. First put forward in 1920 by Aberdeen City's Medical Officer of Health Matthew Hay, the scheme saw the move of three of Aberdeen's hospitals from the city centre to a new site with room for expansion.'

Much of the archive collection is made up of the written word, and the artists involved in the project have taken these, along with various photographs and re-interpreted these to show how the scheme progressed, looking at the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and Aberdeen Maternity Hospital. Working with the artists and the archive collection has opened up new avenues of how research can be viewed and displayed, and provides different ways for people to view historic information.'

It has been a pleasure to have been a part of the project, and fascinating to see how the artists have worked with the material in so many different ways. Since the completion of the scheme in the 1930s, the site has continued to develop and expand and this exhibition shows how Foresterhill Health Campus was begun.'

Jo Gilbert

Jo Gilbert has written a poem in Scots as a response to Flying Lion's 'Byordinary Cratur', as well as the poems that were published in the 'Silver Book' in 1927, which you can see in the wall coverings. The book was published as part of the fundraising campaign the original Joint Hospital Scheme, and can be found in the Silver City Vault archives.

On page 7 of this handout there are instructions on how to download an audio file of Jo reading her poem, as well as a glossary of Scots words.

Jo is a spoken word artist and writer from Aberdeen. Writing in their native tongue of Doric (or North-East Scots) and English, Jo's work has featured on BBC Radio 4 show Tongue and Talk, Edinburgh International Book Festival's Scottish Spoken Word Showcase, in art exhibitions, installations and short films, and murals

Widely published in journals and anthologies, Jo's debut poetry collection 'WTF is normal anyway?' was published in August 2022 by Seahorse Publications. Jo also curated and had work featured in an anthology of new work in Doric/North-East Scots. 'Tales fae the Doric Side' was published via Doric Books in February 2023.

Jo is currently working on a second collection of poetry and a spoken word show.

Flying Lion (Leandro Rizzo)

Flying Lion is an Artist who studied as a Graphic Designer at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He recently graduated from Grays School of Art with a BA in Photography.

'As a photographer, illustrator, and artist, a big portion of my practice involves visiting, and revisiting a place many times, and letting that place tell me a story and finding beauty in the unexpected. While working on the project, I felt that all the buildings, places, sites, and departments of the hospital worked in harmony,

like an Ecosystem. I tried to represent this idea, of several creatures living together in cohabitation. A conversation between places but also a conversation through time, the hospital has been here for 100 years already!

My work involves many things. Photography, digital illustrations, my imagination over the hospital, and also using images from the archives from the past. The final blend is a digital photo manipulation, a collage between many of my pictures and pictures from the archives. Always in a tone, that invites you to open your mind, relax, play with your imagination, and foremost, smile!

I invite you to see through my eyes, try to find, transform, and imagine creatures living in these places.'

Adrian Reid

Adrian Reid's interest in illustration and design lead him to explore the art deco designs of the early Annual Reviews for Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, as well as the poetry and illustrations from the 'Silver Book' and other design elements found while looking through boxes of photographs and paperwork documenting the construction on the Foresterhill site. They can be seen in the large-scale digital prints which cover 3 walls of the gallery.

Adrian Reid (aka Orange-ade) is an illustrator, graphic designer and printmaker based in Aberdeen, Scotland. He specialises in creating colourful, vibrant artwork with a quirky and cheeky demeanour! Beginning each piece in his studio from sketchbooks, he takes these drawings into Adobe Illustrator and then transfers the designs to silkscreen for printing. This crossover between digital and analogue processes is one of the main driving forces behind his work.

Carla Smith

Carla Smith is a contemporary artist currently based in Aberdeen. Having graduated from Gray's School of Art in 2022, Carla is currently graduate artist in

residence at Peacock and Worm, Aberdeen where she has been able to focus on developing her printmaking skills over the past year. Alongside printmaking, Carla works across a variety of mediums such as film, ceramics, book making and food. Carla's practice often circulates around moments of connection, thinking about the ways we can nurture relationships and care for others.

'With access to the archive, I was really interested in the more subtle, everyday things which were recorded in the collection. Archives themselves are compelling, especially in observing the choices that have been made in what deserves to be archived.'

The Sunlight Room as an image sits in a curious way within the archive. The image is from the annual report of the Children's Hospital in 1930. It shows patients receiving UV light therapy and has a very advanced and constructed feel to it. The stances of the staff and equipment that are visible appear very futuristic and this sits in a juxtaposition with the fact it is in an archive.

The Sunlight Room image also captures some patients and staff at the time, again, with this sitting in the context of an archive this documentation receives a new understanding and significance. The image shifts to be more of a capturing of a moments and way of function rather than being about the people themselves.

The Mothers Sitting Room image and the Telephones image are treated with the same gold foiling and printing techniques as The Sunlight Room; however, the images capture a softer, more unassuming side of the archive. Again, these hold the idea of what qualifies for being archived, these stiller more modest images feel like they hold a quieter importance within the rest of the archive.

The Mothers Sitting Room combines an adapted version of the border from one of the hospital annual reports, alongside a chair from an image labelled as the mothers sitting room. The image showed a small room with armchairs clustered together. The chairs were the main feature of the image, and the

labelling impacted upon my understanding of the image, translating the room into a delicate nurturing space, recorded and tucked away within the rest of the collection. The armchair in the print is flocked, giving its surface a soft, fluffy feeling which articulates this understanding of the image overall.'

Nina Stanger

Based in Aberdeen, Nina Stanger is an interdisciplinary artist, DJ and motion designer at Fine Day. Her creative practice combines digital media, sculpture and sound in installed space. She translates sound and digital image into physical space to create mindfulness and bodily awareness in participants.

Interaction is integral to her creative philosophy, she is inspired by landscape, and its connection with the people and life that inhabit it. She is also an avid record collector with a passion for community development and collaboration.

She graduated from Fine Art at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design in 2018 and MA Communication Design at Robert Gordon University in 2022. Her work has been commissioned by ALT-W, Aberdeen Performing Arts, NEON Dundee and has been exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy, New Contemporaries and the Scottish Society of Artists.

'The work uses the metaphor of the garden with the utopian ideals that inspired the creation of the Foresterhill campus. 'A Garden' is a meditative experience in which viewers are invited to reflect how they envision the campus' future. Perhaps this could be further industrialising or de-industrialising.

The video and audio has been created through abstracted videos taken of the Foresterhill site, combining its green spaces with the industrially developed' spaces'



'Byordinar Craturs' by Jo Gilbert

Scan the QR code to download an audio file of Jo's poem.

Glossary of Scots words

Byordinar – extraordinary

Craturs – animals, creatures

Larach – site, foundation, stance

Movit – moved

Forrit – forward

Ayont – beyond, on the further side of

Chaumer – room, chamber

Weel – well

Fowk – folk, people

Spleet-new – brand new

Sillar quail – silver book

Poesies – poems

Scriveins – stories, writing

Mare – more

Lourin – to frown, look threateningly

Kin – can

Fan – when

Ainly – only

Fit/Fit's – what

Bit – but

Far – where

Athoot – without

Sae – so

Yer – your

Tapsalteerie – topsy turvy/upside down

Streech – stretch

Harns – brain, intelligence

Ween – guess, imagine

Mak – make

Warld – world

Luik – look

Derk - dark

Licht – light

Nae – not, no

Sicht – sight

Ingaun – entrance

Micht – might

Doon – down

Ben – through, past


Muckle – big, bulky, lots

Avva - very	Roon – round, around
Oorie – dismal, gloomy	Bittie – a bit, some
Fearsome – frightening	Doon - down
Tour – tower	Brae – the brow of a hill
Beildit – built	Stauns – stands
Walcome – welcome	Tae – to
Gander – wander, walk aimlessly	Peerie toots – small children
Knowe – hillock, mound	Heid/Heided – head/headed
Tak – take	Hoolet – an owl
Tent – attention, care, notice	Wae – with
Stoot – stout	Een – eyes
Leggies – legs	Abreed – wide apart, open
Flaffin – to flap, flutter, wave	Aa – all
Wavin – waving	Quines an loons – boys and girls
Strang – strong	Gien – giving
Huds – holds	Oot – out
Mindin – remembering	Wakkin – walking
Hunner – a hundred	Windaes – windows
Aathin – everything	Steen - stone
Auld – old	
Syne – directly after, next	

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