GRAMPIAN HOSPITALS ART TRUST

10
2014-2024

The Suttie Arts Space

Grampian Hospitals Art Trust

Water is the Heart of the City

Claire Macdonald

Exhibition Information

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ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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Water is the Heart of the City

30 November 2024 - 16 February 2025

Claire Macdonald is a socially engaged artist and theatre designer in the Highlands. Her practice is multidisciplinary, primarily taking the form of installation. She works across theatre production, community arts, education, and visual art.

To celebrate 10 years of The Suttie Arts Space, Claire was invited to change the physicality of the space to create a less clinical and gallery-like environment. After speaking to patients about their hospital stay, Claire drew inspiration from their responses to nature and the key environmental features and industries of Aberdeen; the coast, the rivers, the fishing industry, the vaulted arches of the city centre and Aberdeen's historical link to the textiles industry.

A natural grotto theme emerged during the development of this project, water is the heart of the city's existence and the shorter daylight hours during the winter months allowed the focus to be on light and movement. Aspects which hold a universal connection to well-being.

Claire has a degree in Contemporary Art and Contextualised Practice from Inverness College, UHI. She revived her love of Theatre design

this year designing two shows in Highland and Moray and this exhibition for the GHAT.

As a theatre scenic artist, she worked with many Scottish theatres (Royal Lyceum, Traverse, Dundee Rep & the Brunton) and internationally (Scenic Studios, Channel 9 & Deckchair) before transitioning to Theatre Arts Outreach with schools and communities in Highland.

10 years of The Suttie Arts Space

In November 2014 Grampian Hospitals Art Trust (GHAT) opened The Suttie Arts Space, the only commissioning contemporary arts space to be found in an acute hospital in Britain in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and has successfully been programming it for the past 10 years.

GHAT has been awarded funding from Creative Scotland, Aberdeen City Council among many other supporters, to commission artists and designers to create new work for the gallery space and the users of this NHS Grampian site. Over the past decade 64 artists, designers, arts collectives and curators have worked to make new work for the space.

GHAT has collaborated with organisations such as Sound Festival,

Dance Live, Look Again, Transition Extreme, ACC Creative Learning, Chemikal Underground Records, Summerhall, Aberdeen Performing Arts, and Grays and Moray Schools of Art to deliver exhibitions and installations in The Suttie Arts Space.

The Suttie Arts Space was made possible through the generous support of Ian and Dorothy Suttie. The Exhibition Programme is funded by Creative Scotland and the Aberdeen City Council Creative Fund.

In 2017, The Suttie Arts Space won The Building Better Healthcare Award 2017 for Collaborative Arts Project.

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